



ANTILLEN REVIEW

INGEKOMEN 1 2 FEB. 1982

Vol. 2, No. 2

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1982

NAfl. 6.00

**Fall of Martina
Cabinet I and II**

**Sharing St. Maarten
by the slice**

Economic survey

**Caribbean faces race
between development
and discontent**

**Courageous plea
by Duarte**

Law and language

**Jaycees promoting
leadership**



Bonaire's salty story

FANTA

na liter
ku tapa di skruf!



FANTA
FANTASTIKO!

Curaçao Beverage Bottling Comp. N.V.

TEL. 513311



FROM THE EDITOR

The country's agenda for 1982 looks both overwhelming and challenging. A new era is announcing itself. The old structures inherited from colonial times are crumbling. Bold and far-reaching decisions will have to be made determining the fate of the islands for a long time to come. Not only will they concern the relationship between the islands and with Holland but also the use of language, the educational system and the development of culture. And besides these issues so closely related to the search for identity the country is faced with pressing problems of an economic and social nature.

All this has not come upon the Antilles sudden. In fact during the past years history has accelerated toward this hour in which decision-making can no longer be evaded or postponed. And yet many are caught unaware and unprepared. A situation not

without its dangers for a wholesome development of the democratic process. Small but highly motivated groups are given plenty of room to dominate. It is remarkable to notice that most of the reports recently published by the Government concerning the above mentioned issues have one distinct ideological background. Somehow the majority has again kept silent too long.

That at a time like this the country has once more been plunged into a political crisis, is rated by many as most unfortunate. But on the other hand it should be realized that such a crisis provides the opportunity to make the people aware of all that is at stake. A challenge, one must hope, that will be seen and acted upon by all those who have been entrusted with leadership.

CONTENTS

NATIONAL			WINDWARD ISLANDS			TOURISM		
Fall of the Martina cabinets I and II	5		Sharing St. Maarten by the slice	19		Malafide tour operators		33
Four of the seven	9		FINANCE			INTERVIEW		
			Economic survey	21		Our man in New York		35
ARUBA			SPECIAL FEATURE			COMMUNITY		
Grudgingly toward independence	13		Race between development and discontent	24		Promoting leadership		37
BONAIRE			Courageous plea			26		
Salty story	15		LAW			LITERATURE		
			Law and language	29		Cola Debrot, the unknown		43
CURAÇAO			PEOPLE			BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Traffic chaos threatens	17			31				46



ABN Bank

the largest international bank of holland
at curacao n.a.

As a businessman, your choice of a bank is extremely important. The reputation and skill of your bankers can contribute substantially to the success of your enterprise. When you choose Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. (ABN Bank), you are selecting a major financial institution with outstanding credentials.

for banking service with a personal touch

ABN Bank

wherever you are

Unhappy ending

by Elmer Wilsoe

An analysis of the causes that led to the fall of the Martina cabinets I and II and of the future options for the country

That it would soon happen everyone knew. The only question which remained was by whom and because of what. The answer was given during the first days of the new year. Former Prime-Minister Boy Rozendal broke ranks with his Democratic party and announced that he was not willing to back up the coalition government any longer. The latter's frail majority in parliament as a result evaporated and the Cabinet consequently stepped down. The issue which caused Rozendal's stance stood in no relation to its dramatic aftermath. But after all no great issue was needed. The bells had already been tolling for several months.

Beginnings.

Cabinet crises are always the result of a lack of parliamentary support. A situation which is prone to happen in the Netherlands Antilles because of its peculiar structure. A conflict of interest between the four island territories which make up the country, as much as disagreement between political parties or interest groups within one territory can easily lead to the downfall of the national government. To arrive at a clear understanding of the reasons behind the fall of the Martina Cabinets I and II one should first of all remind oneself of three very important developments which occurred prior to the construction of Martina's government.

First it should not be forgotten that the preceding electoral campaign on Curaçao between Rozendal's



Martina exit

Democratic Party and Martina's MAN was fought out on very personal terms. Secondly Aruba's choice for independence (status aparte) had by then under the leadership of Betico Croes become very articulate. And thirdly there was the decision of St. Eustatius and Saba to boycott the elections, which automatically ensured Mr. Leo Chance of the Windward Democratic Party — a party charged with great corruption — of a seat in parliament. Three developments which continued to play a role in the past two years as may become evident from the following.

Fall I

Already during the formation period the seed for the break up of the first Martina Cabinet was sown. The agreements made between Aruba's MEP and Curaçao's MAN, the major coalition partners, concerning the status aparte of Aruba

and its right of self-determination were of such a vague nature that it spelled trouble.

The cooperation between the two parties during the period of September 1979 — September 1980 consisted largely in running from one problem to another instead of engaging in profound discussions. Arising tensions were quickly and superficially evaded by using the excuse of 'misunderstanding'. The truth, however, was that the Arubans regarded the principle of self-determination and the status aparte as stepping stones to an independent Aruba, whereas the MAN kept harbouring hopes of a united Antilles, be it in a different construction with more power delegated to the respective island territories.

This evading of the real issue allowed the opposition within Aruba to accuse Betico Croes, MEP's leader, of treason to the cause. And before long Mr. Croes began to feel the hot breath of his pursuer Henny Eman, the opposition leader, coming closer from behind. Within his own party things were not going too well either. His autocratic behavior led to a head on crash with the deputy of Education, Miss Grace Bareños, who stepped down in anger. For the same reason Mr. Croes came into conflict with the Island Government whilst being its special advisor. Three deputies tended their resignation as a result. Somehow the breach was healed and the deputies withdrew their resignations, but as might be expected the popularity of Betico Croes started to decline. Mr. Croes began to feel the

need to re-affirm his hold on the electorate.

The obvious solution was to break out of the political straight jacket i.e. the Martina Cabinet. Mr. Croes had little trouble finding an issue. The protocol regulating the National Government's and Aruba's authority with regard to a possible oil find in the waters around Aruba became the breaking point (see AR. vol 1, No. 6). On September 1, 1981, the Cabinet Fell.

Fall II.

Within six hours after the MEP's exit, Mr. Don Martina managed to reconstruct the Cabinet. This he could only do because Mr. Leo Chance of the Windwards DP and Mr. Boy Rozendal (!) offered their support. A support, however, which was given on clearly defined conditions. Both members of Parliament stipulated that within six months it should become crystal clear what Aruba's real intentions are and in what period of time these would be executed.

In the meantime the 'Queen of Saba' affair had developed (see AR. vol. 1, No. 4). Parliament (de Staten) decided to make use of its right of inquiry in order to clear up some questions which had arisen in connection with the intended issuance of a gold coin. During the inquiry Mr. Chance took a very critical stand with regard to the role of the Minister of Finance. It should also be noted that both Mr. Chance and Mr. Rozendal had to listen at several occasions to accusations of bad performance while in government themselves prior to the Martina Cabinet. And last but not least, Mr. Chance was very well aware of the fact that because of his person the Windward D.P. had not been invited to join the Martina Cabinet No. I!

From the above it should be clear that the second Martina Cabinet was not exactly built on a rock.

Heavy criticism in connection with the afore mentioned Queen of Saba and other affairs prompted the Minister of Finance, Marco de Castro, to resign by the middle of December last. The coalition partners were asked to approve the

candidature of Mr. Frank Elenburg to fill up the empty seat in the Cabinet. Mr. Rozendal announced that he would only do so after receiving satisfactory information about the structure of the Cabinet. Almost immediately following this announcement he withdrew his support, and thereby caused the downfall of the Martina Cabinet II.



Boy Rozendal

Elections

To overcome the present crisis three possible solutions present themselves. First is the seemingly obvious option of early elections. The author of this analysis, however, agrees with the trade-unions and business that elections at this moment will not render any positive result. On the contrary such a move might very well undermine the people's faith in democracy, increase the already existing apathy amongst the electorate and thus endanger the constitutional state.

Though it is understandable that the opposition parties prefer early elections as they might gain by them, one must ask whether new faces in parliament will contribute in any substantial way to the constitutional, educational and employment problems of the moment. Moreover, which party can offer the electorate a programme including a clear-cut vision on the constitutional future of the country and the consequences thereof? And is there any one party which

can justify holding up the process of government both on the national and island level for several months, not to speak of the costs, which new elections imply? To question whether early elections will really serve the common interest seems amply justified.

Reconstruction

A second possibility is the formation of a new cabinet. But who will cooperate with whom? The opposition parties on Aruba seem very unlikely candidates as they might forfeit their chances of taking the wind out of the MEP's sails. Curaçao's NVP likewise will prefer to stay in the opposition in order to have a better point of departure when new elections will be held. The Democratic Party of Curaçao has already announced that it will at most suffer a new cabinet and only then when the latter's programme agrees with the party's principles. That leaves the MEP, MAN and the smaller parties of Bonaire and the Windward Islands. But MEP and MAN broke off their co-operation in September 1981 because of a basic difference of opinion. And as far as one can judge nothing has changed since then. So who will join with whom?

Alternative

The last option left is the formation of an interim, national or business cabinet. In spite of the fact that most parties have spoken out against such a solution it might be the best. Not politically tied down such a cabinet could create the necessary tranquility, attend to all the unfinished business and allow the committee of seven (see page 9) time to formulate its recommendations with regard to the constitutional problems. Political parties would in the meantime have a chance of doing their home-work in order to present well-thought out programmes to the electorate, which in turn would then be able to make its choice on the basis of information rather than emotion. Though this may sound as wistful ▶

thinking, it is certainly worthwhile considering.

Post script I

As political parties have in the Netherlands Antilles usually been born to safeguard the interest of a certain group, it seems remarkable that the MAN, which favours the concept of class-struggle, has only lately become aware of the fact that there are other interest groups besides their own.

Accepting the support of Chance and Rozendal the MAN should have realized the risks implied. The professed unawareness of the Cabinet's instability shows political naiveness.

Post script II

It is indeed customary in politics that whoever causes the break should also do the mending. But that principle should have been applied when the MEP broke ranks in September last. Mr. Martina, however, preferred to play the political game and patch up the cabinet in six hours. In papiamentu they say: *soppi pura ta sali salu!* Or as you make your bed so you must lie in it. At this stage it



Leo Chance

seems inconsistent to claim that the spoiler should do the mending, in particular so because it was not a party but one single person.

Post script III

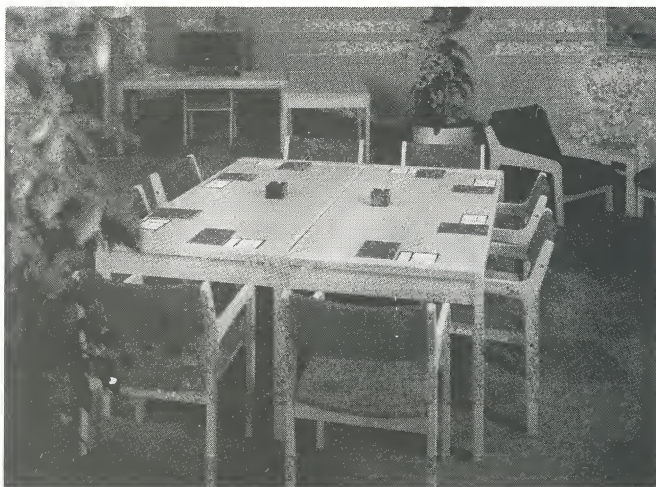
Many politicians are unhappy with the solution of a non-political cabinet because it would write them down as incompetent. But such a judgment is deserved when one has failed as a minister, deputy, member of the Staten or Island Council. It is quite understandable that many want to hang

on to their position for reasons of personal interest and pride. But what the country needs at the present moment is a period of calm in which decisiveness and skill can lead us on to new and wholesome ways. And if that implies writing some down as incompetent it must be done for the sake of the nation's well-being.

Post script IV

An impotent cabinet should in the interest of the country step down! During the period September 1981 — January 1982 the Martina Cabinet II has manifested itself as having no punching power. Such a situation creates stagnation in government, uncertainty in the world of trade and industry, unrest amongst the trade-unions and a general feeling of instability.

One can differ in opinion about the manner in which the Cabinet was brought down but one thing is sure: taking into account the problematic circumstances in which the Antilles find themselves at present the Martina Cabinet II had in this constellation no right of existence! Whatever solution may be opted for, one must hope that the common interest will prevail. ■



A program of striking presence that fulfills all requirements of a modern company office.

van dorp ~
eddine n.v.

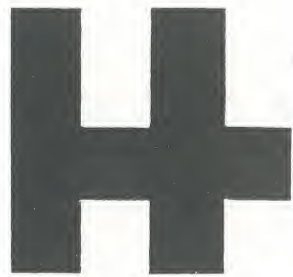
Showroom Otrobanda

Ample parking facilities at the back of our building:

Roodeweg 13 — Tel.: 26133
Curaçao



OFFICE FURNITURE



harbourworks
(netherlands antilles) N. V.

Tel.
611766

- * DREDGING
- * QUAY WALLS
- * BREAKWATERS
- * PIERS
- * RIVER REGULATIONS
- * AIRPORTS
- * UTILITY BUILDINGS
- * GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
- * BLOCKFACTORY BRIEVENGAT

Parera
P.O. Box 490,
Telex: 1135 Cables: DREDGERS

Pleasant shopping in a quiet environment

for your: COSMETICS
PERFUMES
PRESCRIPTIONS
BABY-ARTICLES
FIRST-AID NEEDS, etc.



ANTILLIAN DRUGSTORE

- AMPLE PARKING FACILITIES
- OPEN FROM 8.00 A.M. – 7.00 P.M.
- HOME DELIVERIES POSSIBLE

KAYA FLAMBOYANT 1A – TEL. 76200-76208



Four of the seven

During the coming months a specially appointed committee of seven wise men will look into the feasibility of independence for Aruba and the possible consequences thereof for the other islands. AR hereby introduces to its readers the four Antillean members of the committee.

Objective

The outcome of the Committee of Seven's findings may very well be of a decisive nature with regard to the future status of Aruba. Reason why the Island Council chose the man who has both an extensive knowledge of the constitutional questions involved and a very close relationship to Aruba's political leader. Hendrik Croes, older brother to Betico, was born on January 8, 1942. He completed his Mulo (High School) on the island itself and went to the Netherlands to take the Gymnasium A examination, in order to enter University to read law.

In 1972 Mr. Croes obtained his degree at Holland's famous and oldest university of Leiden. Having worked for some time with the law firm of mr. Willemsen and mr. Wix he went into partnership with mr. Rudi Wever in April of that same year. During the past ten years mr. Croes was called upon by his party MEP to sit on the two coalition cabinets it took part in. From 1973 — 1977 he held the post of Minister of Education. During the Martina I Cabinet he was Minister of Justice and Constitutional Structure.

Soft-spoken Hendrik Croes is known both as an amiable and decisive man. Most important, no doubt, is his proven ability to judge matters objectively. ■



Champion

His collection of trophies is impressive. Former table-tennis champion of Curaçao, well-known chess player and still a strong adversary on the tennis court, Miguel A. Pourier (43) is known as a man who plays fair. Also in politics. Born on Bonaire he received his first education on the island, famous for its flamingo's. After completing his high-school training at the Radolphus College (Curaçao), Pourier went to Holland to study at the Academy of Tax Legislation. He graduated in 1962 and returned to the Antilles to work for the Tax Department. Eleven years later Miguel Pourier had reached the top. That same year (1973) in which he was appointed Director of the afore mentioned branch of

the Civil Service, he was asked to join the Cabinet as Minister for Development Cooperation. A position he occupied for almost six years. For a short while mr. Pourier also took care of the ministries of Finance (4 months) and Economic Affairs (6 months). The last three and a half months of his political career he headed an Interim-Cabinet as Prime-Minister. His performance in each of these functions was widely acclaimed.

On March 1, 1980, Miguel Pourier accepted the offer of a co-directorship of the ABN Trustcompany (Curaçao) N.V. Three days later he officially received his degree in fiscal law (Tilburg), a study he had been pursuing with much perseverance during the past years. His successor in government, Prime-Minister Don Martina, asked him to be his special advisor with regard to international fiscal matters (offshore business). In that position as well as in other advisory capacities he kept contributing to his country's welfare even though no longer in government service. When Bonaire had to appoint its representative in the Committee of Seven, the choice was not very difficult. ■



First hand experience

Curaçao delegate to the Committee of Seven is 68-year old Mi-▶

TIME-SHARING AT CORAL CLIFF RESORT & BEACH CLUB IS YOUR PASSPORT TO HOLIDAYS WORLD-WIDE

For only \$ 4800,00 you can visit exotic RESORTS AROUND THE WORLD OVER THE NEXT 25 years.

For this sum you can purchase the exclusive use of an apartment at CORAL CLIFF RESORT & BEACH CLUB for TWO WEEKS each year.

The apartments sleep four, airconditioned, fully fitted and equipped kitchenette, full bathroom with bath and shower and are very well, newly furnished.

You can use the apartment year after year but if you like visiting different parts of the world then you can exchange your two weeks in a different part of the world each year.

By buying a timeshare at Coral Cliff you'll become a member of Coral Cliff Resort & Beach Club and can use all our facilities year' round.

These facilities are: beautiful beach, lighted tennis court, swimming, scuba-diving, sailing and above all a quiet and beautiful environment + privacy.

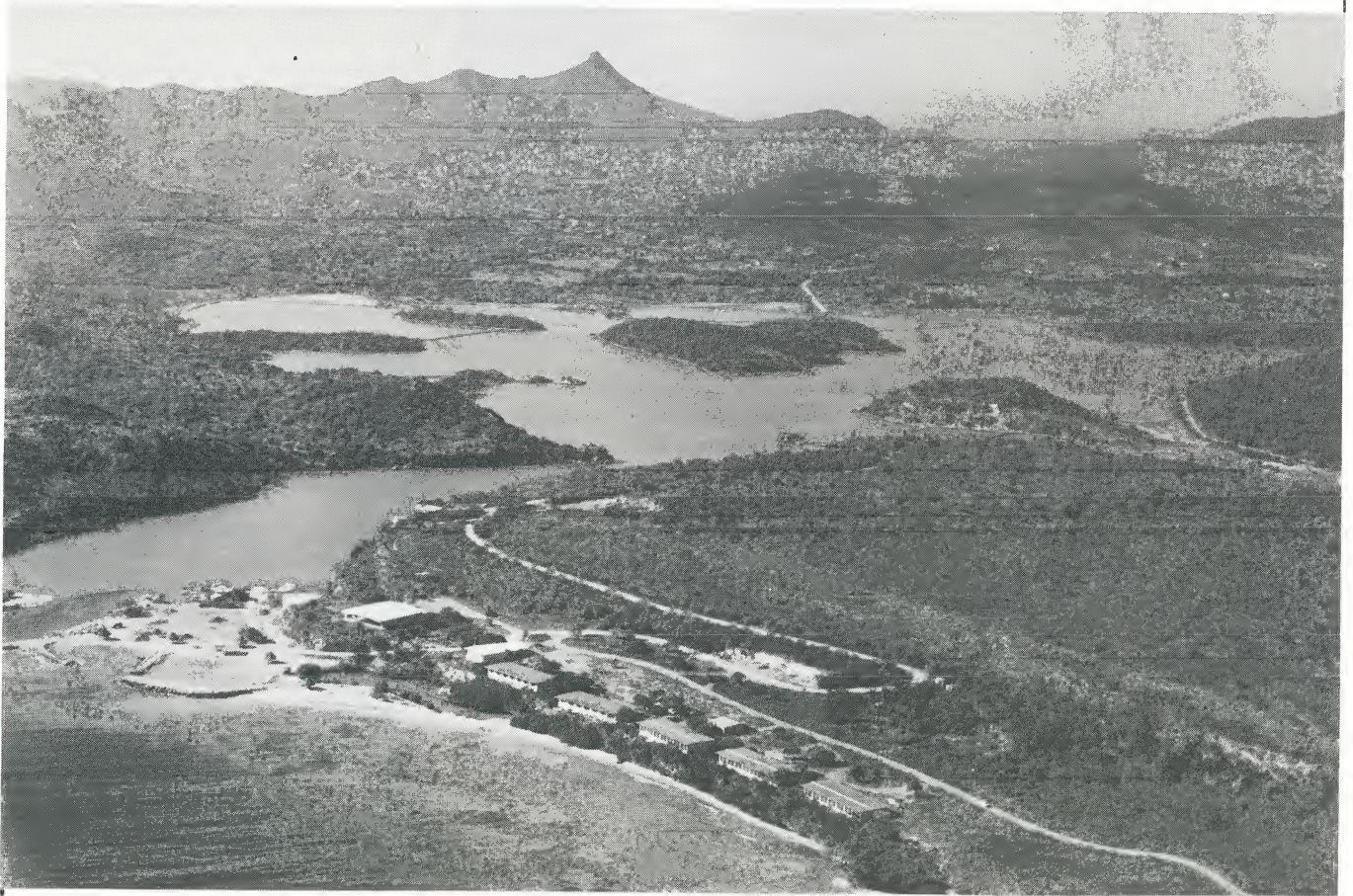
Time-sharing is a good investment whichever way you look at it.

The answer to a modern and inflation-free vacation.

It's a hedge against escalating rental rates and far less expensive than buying a second home.

If you are interested in this new, modern way to buy a vacation home, please call us or write us.

Coral Cliff Resort & Beach Club
Santa Marta Bay
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Telephone 641610 - 641820



CORAL CLIFF RESORT & BEACH CLUB

SANTA MARTA BAY, CURAÇAO, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES – TEL: 641610 - 641820

chael F. Gorsira. Retired three years ago Mr. Gorsira is presently residing in Spain. During those three years, however, he flew over to the Antilles many times, having been invited to sit on several government committees. His grasp of the intricate problems concerning the relationship between the islands and with Holland as a result has increased rather than decreased, as some of Curaçao's opposition members would have it during the debates preceding his appointment.

Mr. Gorsira started his long and impressive career with SHELL. After a few years he joined the police corps. Rising through the ranks steadily Mr. Gorsira in the meantime also completed his higher education and qualified as a legal practitioner. In 1943 Mr. Gorsira was invited by the American F.B.I. to come to Washington(DC) for a special and extensive training. He was the first Antillean to receive this honourable request. Six years later the tall and solemn-looking Antillean was appointed special representative of the Antilles in The Hague(Holland). A position which implied a direct involvement in the negotiations leading up to the first Round Table Conference between the Netherlands and the Antilles.

In 1951 Mr. Gorsira became the first lieutenant-governor of Curaçao after the relationship with Holland had been changed from a colonial structure into equal partnership within one Kingdom. A position he would hold for a period of 16 years. In 1967 Mr. Gorsira reached the summit of his career when he was appointed ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He was first posted in Jamaica, next in Costa Rica and finally in Uruguay. Retirement, however, in 1978 did not bring to an end Gorsira's public life of service to his country. Nor would he have liked that. As mentioned above the Government asked him to contribute to the work of several committees. This implied drawing up advisory reports for the Central Government concerning the administra-

tion of St. Maarten, internal problems within the police corps of Aruba, and the organization of the Antillean police.

The oldest member of the Committee of Seven Mr. Gorsira is the only one with a first hand knowledge of the almost 40 year-old history of deliberations between Holland and the Antilles about the status of the latter. ■



Man of three careers

Representing the Windward Islands is Mr. Ernest Voges, better known as 'Jacky'. Descendent of St. Maarteners, whose roots Jacky keeps reminding friend and foe go back to 'pirate' times, he was born on Curaçao in 1931. The basis for his career was laid at the famous St. Thomas College (Cur.). In 1952 Mr. Voges obtained the title of engineer with a major in architecture at The Hague's Higher Technical College (Holland). Upon his return to Curaçao the young Voges embarked upon his first career. Working with the Island's Department of Public Works he soon made it to the top, first as head of the section of Town Planning and next directing the Building Department and the Ordinance Survey. Simultaneously Mr. Voges started building up what must be called a second career. A political natural, he became a member of the Island Council at the age of 28.

Seven years later Voges moved on to the executive branch filling the post of Commissioner. Between 1967 and 1977 the hard-driving Voges served two Cabinets (at national level) as a Minister of State. He successively headed the ministries of Health, Transportation and Justice. During the period December 1975 — March 1976 he held the post of Vice-Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles.

In the early seventies the energetic Voges enrolled as a freshman at Curaçao's Law School, obtaining his degree in 1977. It was to be the beginning of a third career. Four months after passing his examinations he was appointed lecturer at the Law School. In 1979 Voges became dean of the Law Faculty at the newly established University of the Netherlands Antilles.

Having served as a member of the 'Koninkrijks Commissie', which drew up the outlines of the possible future options for the Antilles, and as a representative to the Round Table Conference between the Netherlands and the Antilles in 1981, the versatile Voges seemed an obvious choice for the Committee of Seven, both to the ruling party and the opposition in the Windward Islands. ■

Always the latest styles in

Ladies'
fashions



DRESSES
BLOUSES
SKIRTS

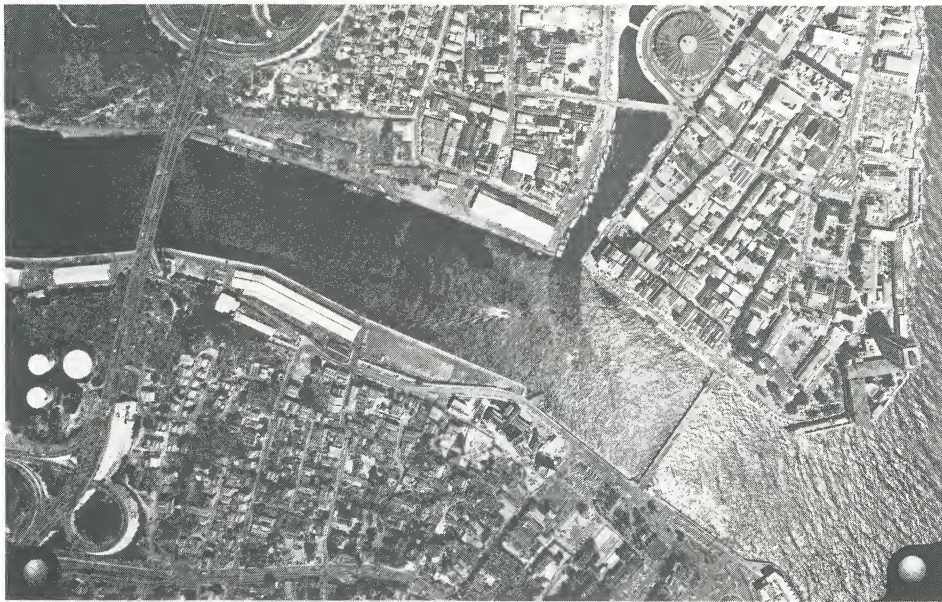
BEACHWEAR
SHOES & BAGS
LINGERIE

BOUTIQUE

Silou

for exclusive ladies fashions
CARACASBAAIWEG 47 - CURACAO
TELEPHONE: 36633

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY



AERIAL SURVEYS – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY – MAPPING

Phone:
613487



HART'S CAMERA NV
Willemstad, Curaçao N.A.



E SERBES
MAS PURU
NA MUNDU

TRY AMSTEL!

THE ONLY BEER IN THE WORLD
MADE OUT OF DISTILLED SEAWATER.

PURE - DELICIOUS!

Grudgingly toward independence

The need for a referendum

Also Caribbean history 'se repète'. The arbitrary formations of colonial realms lacking the basic requirements for nationhood keep falling apart. The Netherlands Antilles are no exception. Independence for the six islands as one nation will never be. Simply because there are no Antilleans but just Arubans, Bonaireans, Curaçaoles, St. Maarteners, Saba's and Statians. None of them want to sever the ties with Holland. Few of them want to continue the 'imposed' national structure. Only Holland, which seems unable to muster up the required flexibility, keeps pressing for independence in 'national' terms. As a result Aruba is slowly manoeuvred into a position of no other choice than to go it alone. But it will do so reluctantly. It would prefer a different solution. The question therefore arises whether the people of all six islands should not be asked to speak their minds in order to determine the point of departure for planning towards the future.

Dilemma

The Antillean independence question may impress outsiders as extremely complicated. But that is only partly correct. Emotionally the matter is really quite simple.

Nowhere on the islands does one find a feeling of nationhood. Most of the people do not consider themselves Antillean or for that matter Dutch. What they do feel is an attachment to their own island. For as much as there is talk about independence it does not reach beyond the shores of the respective islands.

Common sense, however, rejects the implied consequences. Six new micro-states is out of the question. A dilemma which leaves the smaller islands no other choice than to stay with Holland like Anguilla, the Cayman Islands and the Turks & Caicos stayed with Britain. A dilemma, however, which also faces the larger islands Aruba and Curaçao. From an emotional point of view the Arubans and in a lesser degree the Curaçaoles would be willing to become independent. But again common sense holds them back. The basic difference between the two islands in this respect is that Aruba has done some thinking on the subject and has come up with a solution: independence with continuing strong ties with Holland implying e.g. territorial and juridical guarantees. In that context it does not object to co-operation on a number of issues with the other islands. On the contrary, also Aruba realizes the disadvantages of small scale nations.

A view from Aruba

In order to secure a smooth transition Aruba has pressed for decentralisation of the present government services. It has also demanded a modification of the 'Statuut' with regard to the allotment of seats in parliament to the respective island territories. Representation equal to that of Curaçao would imply recognition of what seems inevitable. It would also give Aruba the assurance that it can not be obstructed any longer in the realization of its intentions by Curaçao, which presently has an absolute majority.

Curaçao, unfortunately, has in the past done little else than evade the issue of independence. Its politicians have certainly not gone out of their way to explain their electorate the Aruban position. As a result the solution of a federal Antilles, once favoured by Aruba, was lost.

Change of structure

It seems realistic to plead for a continuance of co-operation between ▶

Grand Marnier



THE KING OF
AFTER DINNER DRINKS

Distributor:

Nico Cornelisse Import

Tel. 612304/5 - Curaçao, N.A.

the islands. It also seems realistic to do away with the notion of one Antillean nation. From which follows that Holland will have to consider restructuring its relationship to the islands. The most plausible solution might be to re-arrange the ties in such a manner that a direct relationship between The Hague and the respective island-territories would result. An enlargement, as it were, of the partnership within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Such a restructuring would provide a reliable basis for the cooperation between the islands. Starting the restructuring at the Antillean side, on the other hand, would amount to little else than adapting the present situation and therefore would not generate the necessary confidence.

Such a restructuring of relationships would also fulfill Aruba's wishes. Its first priority is not com-

plete independence but an autonomous position within the Kingdom. Whether it will move from that situation to total independence is a question it wishes to consider very carefully.

Referendum

A most urgent and with a view to the work of the Committee of Seven indispensable requirement is the holding of a referendum amongst the populations of the six islands. Before we move any further the people should be allowed to express themselves with regard to the most realistic options.

The answer to the following two questions should give the context within which the politicians both from the Antilles and Holland can

continue to do the necessary planning.

A. Do you prefer a continuation of the status quo, in which your island together with the others stays for the time being within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

B. Do you prefer a special status for your island implying own constitutional ties with the Netherlands and close cooperation with the other islands, which might, at a time to be decided by your island and after the Netherlands have given the guarantees deemed necessary, be changed into independence.

The outcome of such a referendum will most certainly lead to different constructions. But the alternative of continuing along the lines of the traditional decolonization process will even more certainly lead to disaster. ■



FOR ALL YOUR

BUSINESS- AND VACATION TRIPS

CONTACT YOUR FRIENDLY TRAVEL AGENT:



P.O. Box 210 – Pietermaaplein 14 – Willemstad, Curaçao N.A. – Tel. 611077 (5 lijnen), Salinja: 35844 – Cables: Caribe NA

BONAIRE



Too often the arrival of industry means the disruption of nature. The following story, however, proves that man and nature can work together successfully.

Prae-history

When the Dutch started visiting the Netherlands Antilles regularly in the sixteenth century, they soon discovered that the low lying lands in the southern part of Bonaire were suitable for the solar evaporation of seawater. The Dutch merchants, who at that time were the main distributors of salt in Europe, developed salt ponds in that area and produced the first salt with the use of slave labour. The shelters near the ponds where the workers stayed during the week can still be found on the island. The means of allowing the seawater to evaporate, collecting, cleaning and loading the salt onto ships were very primitive and labour intensive in those days. The winning of salt became unprofitable after slavery was abolished and the demand for salt became unstable. The industry, which produced up to 1500 tons of salt during the preceding two centuries, declined and the ponds went into decay. It was not until a

century later, when an American salt company took interest in Bonaire, that its salty story was resumed.

Flamingo's

When the International Salt Company in Clarks Summit contacted the governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Bonaire about reopening and modernizing the salt industry, the latter expressed serious doubts about the project. Large parts of the unspoilt island and all the surrounding waters, rich in coral reefs and tropical fish, had been declared national preservation area. The island had become a paradise for divers, who in order to protect the underwater beauty, are only allowed to enjoy themselves by watching and taking pictures.

The biggest concern, however, was the "flamingo's", the reddish West-Indian seabirds, which used to populate at least 30 different locations in the Caribbean, but have now been driven back to three major colonies in Yucatan, Great Inagua and Bonaire. About ten thousand used to populate the salty lagoons around the salt ponds, but during the second

world war they all but disappeared because of low-flying planes and other disturbances caused by man.

In 1947, however they returned and began breeding again. It was now feared that a large scale salt industry, needing plenty of space, would drive the flamingo's, Bonaire's pride and national trademark, away for good. So environmentalists, government and business joined hands and agreed that the Salt Company would construct a bird sanctuary for the flamingo's, in which the water level and salinity could be controlled by pumps and the birds could breed without the danger of floods and heavy rainfalls killing their young. The project proved a success, even though irresponsible pilots, flying low over the sanctuary in spite of laws prohibiting this, frightened away a large number of the birds.

A further reason for the decline in their number were the adverse conditions in the mainland of South America, where the birds migrate daily to collect food for their chicks. This year, however, some 2500 gray-coloured baby flamingo's could be seen trodding along in the sanctuary. It is for this reason that the Florida Audubon

Society calls the Bonaire Flamingo Sanctuary experience one of the examples of the enlightened accommodation of wildlife by industry.

Production

After the flamingo problem was solved the International Salt Company in Clarks Summit, sixty percent of which is owned by the AKZO salt company in Holland, was granted the lease of about 3500 hectares of low lands at the southern tip of Bonaire. The company invested around 9 million dollars to create a modern salt plant, which provides sixty-three local jobs and produces up to 350,000 tons of salt a year. The Antilles International Salt Company was officially opened in 1973 and was granted a ten-year tax holiday, which is a common measure in the Netherlands Antilles to attract foreign industries.

Managing director Rene Hakkenberg, born in Curaçao, was contacted in Canada and hired to supervise the construction of the salt plant and later stayed on as the man in charge of the island-based industry. He is obviously happy with his job and proud of his company. He is deeply interested in the island and especially in the flamingo's. Hakkenberg is optimistic about the plant's future because of the increase in energy prices, which in his opinion will cause greater demand for solar salt than for salt mined out of the ground at high energy cost. He is on the other hand aware of the high rate at which labour wages are increasing, whereas salt prices remain fairly stable as they have always done.

Future

The fact that the plant in Bonaire is located far from its markets and that transport costs are often higher than the price of the salt itself makes Hakkenberg very cautious when talking about the future. "Salt is not exactly a scarce commodity, because in principle it can be found and produced anywhere. Only efficiency and stable production can guarantee the suc-

cess of a plant like this" he says. Hakkenberg is satisfied with both of these aspects at the plant in Bonaire and believes that even after the tax holiday ends in 1983 the industry will remain profitable and even grow. "We are trying to find ways to utilize the somewhat higher land in the eastern part of our territory and expand our production to around 500,000 tons a year. But this is all still in a preliminary phase" he adds.

Figures

The managing director is very careful when giving information about costs of production and profits. The reason being that the Bonaire plant is in heavy competition with other companies. Producing an average of 300,000 tons of salt a year at a price of about \$14.00 a ton, the Company has a gross yearly income of about U.S.\$4.2 million. A figure which indicates that the survival chances of one of the most important export industries in the Netherlands Antilles are good. This in spite of the fact that last year was a bad one for salt, because of the heavy rainfall, which made harvesting very

difficult. Production fell to not much more than 200,000 tons.

Domestic demand.

Strange as it may seem all the salt that is used locally, in homes as well as in the industrial sector, is imported from abroad. This because the plant in Bonaire does not package salt, but merely sells it in large quantities as raw material. But recently the Antilles International Salt Company has developed plans for the establishment of a bagging plant. The new production centre will begin serving industrial needs. At a later stage it will also produce salt for domestic use. A development which will certainly benefit the country's balance of payments. Also employment will be created for another five people. It is almost certain that the project will be realized, according to Hakkenberg. The demand is sufficient and there have been numerous requests for bagged and packaged salt by countries that do not dispose of the facilities to do this themselves.

Chances are that the Antillean housewife may soon find herself using Antillean salt! ■



For men who know European fashion!

wullsen & wullsen

wilhelminaplein 1, curaçao
nassaustraats 52, aruba

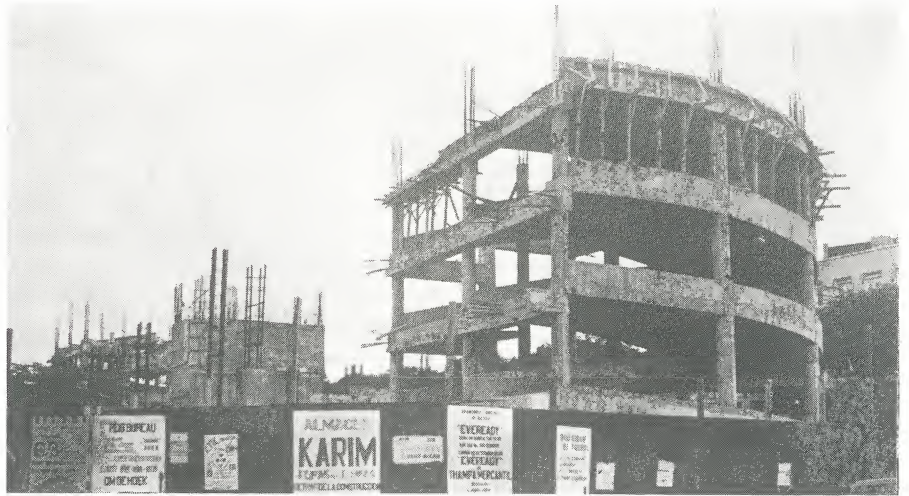
other branches: society boutique, windstraat 19, curaçao
young man shop, kerkstraat 5, curaçao
and 5 shops in holland

Traffic chaos threatens if liberal policy is continued

Overcrowded roads, long lines at the rush hours, an exasperating shortage of parking place in the city and an inadequate transport system rank Curaçao at least in this respect with the more developed nations of the world. With 280 cars per 1000 inhabitants it falls in the same category as a country like the Netherlands. Until recently no official planning was envisaged, let alone executed, to secure a balanced development of the traffic situation. There seems little doubt that if this liberal policy is continued much longer chaos will result. Reason why the Island Government asked the departments of Public Works and Town Planning to draw up proposals for a long term policy.

Status symbol

Car-ownership is by now considered an established right even for low income people. This may be deducted from the fact that in spite of the far from healthy economic situation and the high percentage of unemployment, the Government has taken no measures to slow down the consumption of imported luxuries, in particular cars. From a political point of view such measures would be very damaging indeed as the possession of a car is regarded by most Curacaolens as a necessity of life and a most important symbol of status. As a consequence most people are quite willing to spend a relatively large part of their income on the possession and maintenance of this modern means of transport. Up till now, however, they have not been required to contribute in any substantial way to the costs of building and maintaining the necessary network of roads. The income from import duties and car-taxes only



Decaying ruins of parking garage

makes up for a small percentage of the Government's expenditure in this respect. In fact, it might be stated, that car-owners in the Antilles are heavily subsidized.

As the capacity of most roads is already overdrawn by far and as reconstruction of the network will involve astronomical amounts of money, some far-reaching decisions will have to be taken soon.

Policy objectives

In 1980 the Island Council passed an ordinance offering the authorities the possibility to start drawing up the necessary development plans. In order to do so general policy lines had first to be laid down. This has in the meantime been done. A report is expected to be published in May of this year. A guiding principle is said to be keeping all plans within the limits prescribed by the financial and spatial situation of the island. Decisions in the past have often been taken according to Dutch standards and turned out to be extremely and unnecessarily expensive. A well-known example are the

highly sophisticated traffic lights at the 'Biesheuvel' intersection. It is very much the question whether the European traffic regulations should indeed be applied to Curaçao.

The policy statement will also shed light on the pressing parking situation, public transport, traffic circulation, the structure of the road network and last but not least the possible measures to prevent a too rapid growth of car traffic.

No parking

The most conspicuous problem facing the bustling city of Willemstad is the lack of adequate parking space. The available lots are soon occupied early in the morning by those working in the offices and shops. This leaves little to no room for those who want to go shopping or do business later in the day. Reason why several shopkeepers have moved out to areas more accessible to car drivers. A development which might in the future endanger the very life of the city, which in turn could prove to be disastrous for tourism. Visitors to the ▶

island love to wander around the old and picturesque parts of town expecting to find more than just the regular souvenir shops.

The authorities have long since realized that measures improving the situation should be taken. But no decisions have as yet been reached. The construction of a parking garage right in the centre of town was halfway stopped, because the owners went bankrupt. The slowly decaying ruins of the unfinished building still stand as a silent witness to the inaptitude of the local government. Parking meters which were bought as early as 1969 have never been installed for the simple and shameful reason that no appropriate legislation has been passed. The 12 year old equipment has in the meantime become obsolete.

Public Transport

In spite of the fact that there has been a considerable increase of people making use of public transport — from 0.3 million in 1974 to

4.0 million in 1981 — it must be concluded that there is still no real alternative to the private car. Bus services run at an hourly schedule which causes long queues at the busstops. An enquiry held in the spring of 1981 revealed general dissatisfaction among the public on this score. Consequently it seems advisable to increase the number of busses.

Attention should also be given to the so called AC-busses (transportation offered by private persons, licensed for this purpose, in ordinary cars). Presently almost 400 of these AC-busses are serving the public. They reach out to areas the larger busses never touch and run at a much higher frequency. Although the government does not subsidize this typical kind of transport, it has issued price regulations. It may be expected that the afore mentioned policy statement will propose a method of subsidizing this mixture of taxi and public transport in order to safeguard its continuity.

Choices

Drawing up a strategy in this respect depends very much on the projected needs for transportation in the future. Such projections are not easy to give because of the many variable factors involved. The choice then is between a policy which follows developments or one which determines them at least in some measure. In other words: will Curaçao opt for a situation in which transportation by private means implying high expenditure on the road network prevails or for a mixture of private and public transport, which will be cheaper but lead to strong government interference?

The soon to be published policy statement will offer description of several models and the consequences of each of them in financial and spatial terms. It is hoped that on basis of those studies clear cut decisions will soon be taken about the direction of traffic and transportation on Curaçao. ■

YOUR SOLID LINK

The oldest commercial banking group in the Netherlands Antilles.....your bankers for all your business.....at your service for all banking transactions within, from, and to the Netherlands Antilles.

for all bank transactions



CARIBBEAN MERCANTILE BANK NV
ARUBA



MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK NV
CURACAO



MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK NV
BONAIRE



THE WINDWARD ISLANDS BANK NV
ST. MAARTEN

Affiliated with The Bank of Nova Scotia — Toronto, Canada

Sharing St. Maarten by the slice

Latest system of resort-vacationing now establishing at Simpson Bay

With high interest rates and inflation putting primary housing out of range for most young families, the cost of a 'dream' vacation has rapidly become just that for all but a privileged few.

Through the magic of resort sharing, probably the hottest innovation in vacation housing, more than 400,000 families are presently enjoying vacations in over 600 resorts around the world, including Aruba and since a couple of weeks also St. Maarten.

Time-sharing

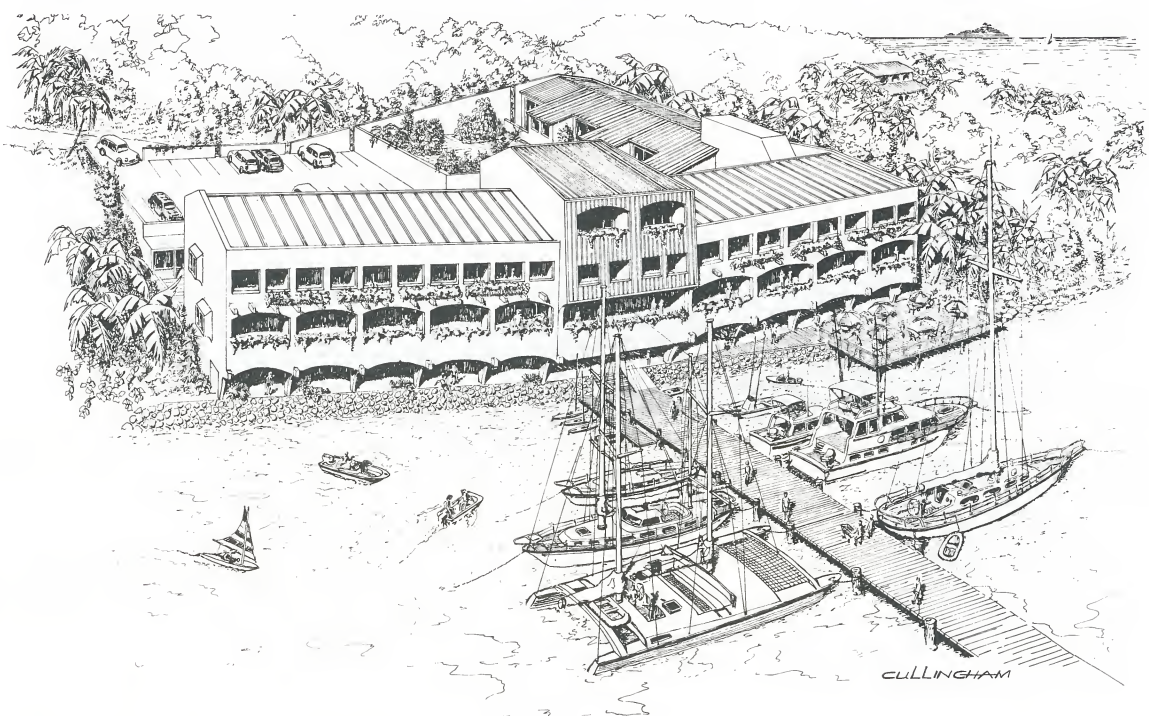
The official opening of the Pelican Resort & Club's first completed building on December the 11th of last year not only marked the occasion of yet another holiday resort being established on St. Maarten but also the introduction of a new system of vacationing to the island. Interval ownership or timesharing, as the system is usually called, offers vacationers the possibility to buy

or lease their 'own' apartment for one or two weeks per year over a long period of time. By thus splitting the cost and use of the apartment anywhere between 26 and 52 ways, the proud possession of a fully furnished vacation home has come within the reach of millions. It is estimated that at present there are over 350,000 resort timeshare owners in the United States alone, with a potential of 35 million owners. General consumer approval for

resort sharing, as well as wide acceptance from the media and repeat purchasers, has paved the way for steadily rising sales figures that are expected to reach \$2.5 billion in 1982.

Allamanda

This exotic name, conjuring up stylish and romantic images, was given to the first building erected on the 13 acres property of the Pelican Resort & Club at St. Maarten's beautiful Simpson Bay. Indications are that the choice of name may be justified. Within four years Allamanda will have been joined by five more low rise buildings containing in total some 160 apartments, each offering its owners an unobstructed view of the sea. A marina, coffee shop, restaurant, shops, casino and discotheque, tennis courts and a separate swimming pool for each of the buildings, will make the project a holiday resort par excellence. And that is exactly what time-sharing aims at. In the case of the Pelican Resort people can assure themselves of a repeat holiday of otherwise un-attainable luxury for a period of 99 years, the cost per week ▶



varying from \$3,500 to \$18,000 depending on season and type of apartment. It should be noted that these amounts mentioned concern a one-time advance payment!

Advantages

What has emerged, it is maintained by advocates of the trade, from this new phenomenon on the vacation scene is a totally new type of vacationer. Not only will he display a greater care for 'his apartment', attachment to the local scene will grow as the years go by. Another 'most important factor is' as Mr. Martin Vlietman, president of the Pelican Resort & Club points out, 'that the tourist already has paid for his vacation for years in advance and therefore can spend his whole vacation budget on other items . . . , which of course, is very beneficial for the local community'. Resort sharing industry surveys in-

dicating that a family will spend in excess of \$500 for food, entertainment and shopping while on a week's vacation.

Moreover, as the Pelican Resort & Club is a member of Interval International, timeshare owners have free access to 300 similar resorts through an exchange system. The fact that the timeshare owners have pre-paid their vacation and will want to make use of their apartment or exchange it with others, ensures a high occupancy rate all year round, much to the benefit of the business community and the employment situation.

Guarantees.

Asked what certainty the 'owners' have once all the apartments are 'sold' that their property will be taken care of properly, Mr. Vlietman first of all points out, that the Antillean law protects the lease-contract for the time it has

been concluded for. Next, he explains, that the tenants are by virtue of their 'ownership' members of an association, which has the right to take over the management of the resort if 60% of the tenants so desire.

Maintenance costs, which have to be paid yearly, are guaranteed by the developer not to go beyond the cost of index figure till 1986. From then on it depends on the services required by the tenant organisation.

The association of owners moreover has the right to appoint an accountant of their own choice controlling the financial management of the resort.

With sales totalling almost \$1,000,000 already before the Allamanda building was completed, Mr. Vlietman has 'no doubt in my mind that we will bring this project to a successful conclusion within the projected period of time'. ■



You may have dreamt of a vehicle that combines performance and economy with comfort and style YOUR DREAM HAS NOW COME TRUE



BONAUTO N.V.
Roodeweg 109, Curaçao, N.A.
P.O. Box 113 - Tel: 23957 - 24511



by H. C. Beers

The year 1981 closed with a considerable surplus on the balance of payments of about f. 100 million, which was mainly a result of the high transfers from abroad by the oil refineries to pay their profit taxes. The previous year recorded a surplus of f. 52.2 million of which f. 34.3 million was granted by the Dutch Government as special aid to improve the balance of payments as well as public finance. In 1981 no such aid was received, although public finance is still weak. Inflation decreased to probably less than 10% from 16% in 1980. However, the high rate of unemployment remained the main problem, in particular on Curaçao. Investments were not sufficient to alleviate this situation. The lack of a sound comprehensive economic policy and also the uncertainty about the political future are not stimulating factors for investors. The resignation of the Martina Government during the first days of 1982 and the chance that new elections will have to be held will hamper the development of such a policy in the near future.

foreign reserves

The Central Bank recorded a sizeable growth of net foreign reserves during 1981. At year's end these reserves amounted to f. 244.3 million, which is f. 74.8 million higher than at the end of 1980. The private deposit banks also experienced a rise of their net foreign assets of about f. 25 million, resulting in a surplus of about f. 100 million on the balance of payments. The sur-

plus did not come as a big surprise. During the whole of 1981 foreign reserves stayed well above the level of the corresponding months of 1980 and after the surge in July due to the profit tax transfers by the oil refineries, in particular Lago Aruba, the annual growth amounted to between f. 90 and 130 million. A surplus on the balance of payments indicates that domestic savings exceed investments, which is rarely a goal in economic policy, especially when unemployment is rather high. To cut the jobless rate substantial investments are needed, which will undoubtedly increase imports and result in a reduction of foreign reserves unless financed abroad. Investments will create employment opportunities and future income to redeem the debts. So for 1982 a repetition of such a huge surplus is not desirable.

balance of payments

There are still no figures available for the second half of 1981. The general impression for the whole year is that merchandise imports did not grow beyond the rate of inflation and that tourism performed rather well, resulting in an increase of foreign exchange proceeds. As did offshore profit taxes. However, there are indications that the amount could be higher if tax authorities are able to send out all tax assessments in time. The amount involved is estimated at tens of millions of guilders. Development aid from the Dutch Government as well accounted for

a high amount of foreign exchange. In December 1981 f. 23 million was received for multi-annual plan projects. This did not include special aid to improve both balance of payments and public finance. In December 1980 an amount of f. 34.3 million was received for that purpose and the Dutch authorities promised to repeat this assistance for the next years.

After the federal government crisis in October some capital left the country. In that month a drain of f. 31 million was recorded, which was partly due to capital outflow.

exchange rates

In the recent months the US dollar stayed at a stable level quoting around Df. 2.50 in Amsterdam resulting in a rate of f. 0.72 for the Dutch guilder in the Netherlands Antilles. At the end of 1980 the Dutch guilder quoted f. 0.85, but during 1981 the rate fell to f. 0.62. In October, after the realignment of the European Monetary System, the Dutch guilder rose against the US dollar to about its current level. The lower rate of the Dutch guilder has resulted in cheaper imports from the Netherlands and thus slowed the pace of domestic inflation. Furthermore the rate allowed Antilleans a little cheaper stay in Holland, whereas Dutchmen had to pay more when visiting our islands.

monetary developments

In the beginning of 1981 the money supply exceeded f. 1 billion and probably reached an amount of f. 1.2 billion at the end of 1981. This growth was realized by the inflow of foreign money due to the balance of payments surplus. Besides that additional money has been created by the domestic banking system through lending to Government and private sector. Loans to the private sector increased very rapidly at an annual rate of about 20%. Part of it appeared to be for consumptive purposes, which grew relatively faster than productive credits. According to the Central Bank the demand for consumptive loans swelled because ▶

AVAILABLE IN SMALL ECONOMY SIZE!

If you need a small copier, consider the Xerox 2600.

It fits snugly on office tables and into office budgets. Still, it's every inch a Xerox copier.

It delivers Xerox-quality copies in seconds. It copies from bound volumes. It not only copies on regular paper, but also on colored paper, transparencies, even your own letterhead.

And it's backed by the Xerox service network coast to coast.

So if you're in the market for an inexpensive copier, call us at one of these numbers:

Aruba,	phone	25492
Curaçao,	„	70233
Bonaire,	„	8060
Sint Maarten	„	2174

We'll show you how the Xerox 2600 offers something others don't.

The quality and reliability of a Xerox copier. In a convenient, money-saving package.



XEROX ANTILLIANA N.V.

XEROX ® and 2600 are trademarks of XEROX CORPORATION
used by XEROX ANTILLIANA N.V. as a registered affiliate.

FINANCE

the banks granted few in the previous year, when a restriction was in force. In 1981 no restrictive measures were deemed necessary, since the balance of payments had improved considerably.

The near money component of the money supply, comprising time deposits and savings, climbed faster than the amount of current accounts and coins and bank notes in circulation. An important part of the time deposits is held by the island governments, in particular Aruba. The monetary statistics as per the end of October showed a total amount of f.95 million deposited by the island governments; f.33 million with the Central Bank and f.63 million with the private banks. The Central Bank's condensed balance sheet as per December 31, 1981 still showed an amount of f.29.4 million in the name of the island governments.

public finance

In general 1981 proved to be a difficult year for public finance. The federal government started to overdraw its borrowing facility with the Central Bank. The limit agreed upon amounted to f.90 million, which was not reached until treasury paper to the banking system was issued. During the year the actual balance stayed very close to this limit. The government tried to issue additional treasury paper, but the banks were reluctant to buy more than the amounts maturing. Bonds issued to the public had more success, attracting over f.30 million. Mid January 1982 treasury paper to an amount of f.25 million will mature and it will be interesting to see how and on what terms the government is going to refinance.

In December 1981 the government received additional funds from the Central Bank through an interim profit distribution of f.6 million for 1981. The Central Bank had already declared a dividend for 1980 and decided to use the remainder to increase its capital and reserves by f.6.2 million to f.52.1 million.

Despite its financial difficulties the government decided to adjust the rates of income and wage taxes for

inflation effective January 1, 1981. This measure will affect the liquidity position of the island governments, which are charged with the collection of these taxes. The adjustment involved a reduction of f.23 million for 1981 and about the same amount for 1982.

Thanks to the temporary increase of profit taxes paid by Lago the island government of Aruba improved its financial position. During the first half of 1981 Aruba still was in serious liquidity difficulties and was saved by the cooperation of the federal government. After July the short term liabilities could be repaid and cash reserves were built up. Aruba has now about f.60 million available which is expected to decline to f.30 million as per July 1982, when the next profit tax payment by Lago is due.

The island government of Curaçao solved its dispute with Curaçao Oil Terminal (COT) about two tax ordinances. The amount of f.80 million will not be given back and COT will pay f.17.3 million for 1981 as well as 30% of its profit during 1982 through 1984. Thereafter the common tax stipulations will be applied. This agreement will improve the financial position of the island government, al-

though a deficit for 1982 is still expected.

The other islands are also experiencing financial difficulties and have approached the federal government for aid. St. Maarten asked for an additional f.1.3 million and St. Eustatius as well as Bonaire for f.0.4 million to pay the monthly expenditures in December 1981. Saba requested only f.43.000.—. The federal government is already expecting a deficit of f.20 million for 1982 which will climb to f.80 million in case no agreement is reached on tax sharing and payments to LRD, the telecommunication department.

inflation

The inflation rate fell substantially during 1981 from 16% to about 9%. In 1979 the pace of price increases was 12%. The decline in the growth of consumer prices in the U.S.A. accounted for most of the improvement. The cheaper rate of the Dutch guilder may also have contributed to a slower pace of inflation. For 1982 the U.S.A. forecast a further drop, perhaps to as low as 7%. If that projection turns out to be correct then inflation here will also decrease to the lowest annual rate since 1977. ■

condensed balance sheet Central Bank; f. million

	31-12-81	30-09-81	30-06-81	31-03-81	31-12-80
gold stock	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4
foreign reserves	244.4	214.3	162.0	152.3	169.9
loans to:					
- fed. government	89.8	89.7	81.4	89.5	104.7
- banks	--	--	0.6	--	--
- other sectors	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
sundry assets	6.2	6.3	7.1	9.7	6.8
TOTAL	383.0	353.0	293.8	294.2	324.2
bank notes	176.4	157.4	166.5	157.2	165.1
deposits held by:					
- fed. tax collectors	3.0	4.7	6.1	5.9	9.0
- island governments	29.4	57.7	2.3	0.4	12.6
- banks	47.7	22.3	18.2	41.7	49.3
- development projects	36.7	23.6	18.9	9.0	17.7
- private sector	17.8	14.9	18.1	14.7	11.7
- non-residents	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
money in custody	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.6	0.6
sundry liabilities	17.7	24.3	15.5	18.7	11.9
capital and reserves	52.1	45.9	45.9	45.9	45.9

Caribbean faces race between development and discontent



Miami conference dinner meeting

"We can either win that race with urgent development or lose it with raging discontent". (Edward Seaga, Prime Minister of Jamaica.)

The myth of a never-ending carnival may continue to attract millions craving for an escape from daily routine to the Caribbean, for those living in the area such romantic notions are a far cry from reality. Leaders from all over the region meeting at the Miami Conference on Caribbean Trade, Investment and Development in December of last year were unanimous in describing the present state of affairs as of a very critical nature. Stretching from the Spanish speaking countries of Central America to the English speaking islands in the east, the Caribbean is awash in tidal waves of political upheaval and economic depression. As Jose Miguel Alfaro, vice president of Costa Rica, told the six hundred participants to the conference — amongst whom eight heads of government and a number of ranking U.S. officials involved with formulating Caribbean policy: — "Time has run out". Reason why the Reagan administration has purportedly been working hard at developing a fresh approach to the region's problems. Purportedly,

because even at the Miami Conference very few details were made public, causing several outstanding Caribbean leaders to express growing feelings of disappointment and concern.

Plight

The critical point at which the Caribbean finds itself today was accurately outlined by Mr. Tom Enders, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs. Enders spoke of three crises plaguing the region at the same time: "an economic emergency brought about in part by low commodity prices; insufficient opportunities for capital and skills that are available, and political unrest convulsing much of the region, particularly Central America". Economic under-development is indeed universal, differing from nation to nation only in degree, causing all of them to be extremely vulnerable. During the past two decades several of in particular the English speaking islands have sunk, as it was recently put by a Miami Herald editorial, "deeper into sloughs of economic despond". The main cause being, no doubt, the worldwide recession. The approach of the U.S. authorities, however, also causes a basic problem, according to Jamaica's

prime-minister Edward Seaga. He reminded the conference that 'during the years beginning with the revenue act of 1962 and ending with the tax reform act of 1976, a series of legislative measures in the U.S. congress withdrew the last remnants of the measures which tended to encourage investment in developing countries'.

The lack of opportunities in most Caribbean societies, which have as a rule disproportionately young populations, has resulted on the one hand in an outflow of skill and know-how and on the other hand in a susceptibility to frustration and ferment. Fertile soil for the anti-democratic forces, which wish to draw the region into the global power-struggle and are already creating havoc on a ghastly scale in the Central America's.

The danger of a spillover into the Caribbean, promoting Communist totalitarianism, is by no means imaginary. The only answer that may effectively defuse the time-bomb on which the region is now living is to stimulate rapid economic growth. And although the prime-minister of Barbados, Mr. J.M.G. Adams, rightly declared that "Caribbean countries should not be required to first present evidence of imminent Communist subversion ▶

before qualifying for a U.S. commitment to alleviate, by whatever means, their economic and social circumstances", it looks as if exactly that threat is causing the U.S.A. to wake up at last. But even then, as most observers to the Miami Conference noted, the so-called Caribbean Basin Policy of the Reagan administration is agonizingly slow in taking shape.

Glimpse

Expectations ran high when President Reagan addressed the Conference right at the opening by means of a live telephone call from his ranch in California. Mr. Reagan said he believed that the conference "could be a turning point in the development of the region" and listed strengthening relations with the Caribbean as one of his 'highest priorities'. In line with his general political gospel the President declared that "economic success is crucial to resolving the problems of political stability". A theme which was enlarged upon by U.S. Trade Representative William Brock, when he next sketched the outlines of Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative. The main thrust of the new approach lies in promoting trade, investment and aid. The order should be carefully noted. The Reagan administration aims at promoting self-help mainly by enlisting the interest of entrepreneurs. Probably the most significant proposal Mr. Brock advanced was that of a "one-way free trade area" for most products coming to the U.S. from the Caribbean. A measure which, if adopted by Congress, would assure a stable market and arouse worldwide interest in investing in the Caribbean.

Mr. Brock, however, also reminded his audience of the fact "that international business still views some parts of the Caribbean and Central American basin as high risk areas". To change this perception, Mr. Brock said that during the preparatory consultation with interested parties" it was generally concluded that bilateral investment treaties covering such issues as right-of-entry, national treatment, expropriation, and dispute settlement procedures would be

helpful, if such treaties meet the self-determined needs of the area's nations". Mr. Brock added that "clear rights and guarantees to investors, and predictable standards of investment treatment would be powerful signals of national commitment to market-oriented solutions to economic problems".

Another key element that Brock indicated was being considered for inclusion in the programme concerns the need for political risk insurance. Brock said: "we have been exploring the feasibility of a multilateral political insurance institution, which would be open to investors from all nations and which would extend the scope of risk coverage to fill gaps currently existing under the OPIC-type (Overseas Private Investment Corporation) arrangements".

But apart from these few specific proposals Mr. Brock's outline of the Caribbean Basin Initiative remained fuzzy. The stress on a long-term programme of investment and trade, and a minimum of financial aid did not seem to recognize the urgency felt by many Caribbean leaders for quick and decisive action.

Sorry state

The strong accent on trade and investment as primary tools for development, however, seems substantiated by the remarkable recovery of Jamaica. It was in fact during the visit of that country's Prime Minister Edward Seaga to Washington shortly after Reagan's inauguration that the idea of a Caribbean Basin Initiative was born.

Now, almost a year later, Seaga was able to convey to the assembled Caribbean leadership a most impressive story, which offers a means of assessing how the Caribbean Basin Initiative's theoretical strategies work. Particularly so because of the involvement of the NASSAU FOUR with the programme of economic recovery of Jamaica". An involvement which," Seaga said, "can be considered the advance guard of the operation of the Caribbean Basin Plan".

Mr. Seaga began by reminding his audience of the disastrous deve-



Mr. Edward Seaga

lopments in his country in the years leading up to 1980. "During that period the gross domestic product shrunk by 20%, after 8 consecutive years of negative growth. More than 50% of the capacity of the industrial sector and one-third of the mining sector became idle; more than 50% of the hotel rooms were vacant; inflation grew by an average rate of 30% over the last 5 years of that period; new investment dried up almost completely; worst of all, unemployment increased by 50%, and standards of living fell by 57%, recording levels of deterioration unprecedented in the modern history of the country". Continued Seaga: "utilities malfunctioned and deteriorated below levels of tolerance; grave shortages of basic foods, raw materials, capital goods and spare parts existed; work stoppages and industrial closures paralysed sectors of the economy; public services partly collapsed in hospitals and education; social conflicts erupted and political tensions rose to a breaking point with the ideological shift to the radical left; violent crimes escalated to savage levels; heavy migration split friends and families and drained the country of vital skills; capital fled; and the people lost hope and confidence as the national morale sank to its lowest ebb."

It was for all these reasons that the Seaga government made economic recovery the number one priority of its programme, which thus became of great significance to the political direction of the region, the economic viability of the smaller

nations, and the prospects of regional stability.

Recovery

A strategy was developed which aimed first of all at setting the finances of Jamaica in order so as to enable the economy to operate on a smooth basis. This implied a new agreement with the IMF and renegotiation of the syndicated commercial debt held by international banks. Next a very tight rein allowing only marginal growth was put on expenditure levels while the increase of revenues was stimulated. As a result the budgetary gaps were narrowed considerably. A corresponding rise of international confidence led to some 500 new investment proposals, totalling US.\$840 million. Declared Seaga: "both local and foreign private investment featured in this dramatic reversal, with a mix of 60% foreign and 40% local investment, including many joint ventures." Unemployed fell by 6% and is expected to continue to decrease as proposals for new investment are coming in at a rate of 2 projects per day.

A careful mixture of monetarist policies with fiscal devices and a deregulation of the economy on a phased basis resulted in a reduction of the growth rate of inflation in 1980 from 23.2% to a spectacular 4.2% in 1981!

Declared a proud he by far not yet content Seaga: "with improved economic performance violent crime has significantly decreased, social tensions have eased, reverse migration of skills back to Jamaica has commenced and confidence and hope in the future has been restored again".

Tax incentives

The impressive headway made by the Seaga government in restoring stability to the Jamaican society seems by virtue of its underlying strategy to prove the viability of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. But although Mr. Seaga showed himself most happy with the "creative unleashing of resourceful thinking in the Caribbean and among the Nassau Four to structure new mechanisms to meet the need for new trade and fiscal facilities", he also sounded a warning. "The extent,

Seaga said," to which innovative measures are being contemplated in the fiscal sector is well behind the proposals for new trade mechanisms". And it is exactly in the area of incentive measures that much of the expected investment will flourish or fail. Most Caribbean countries are deficient with regard to the prerequisites for attracting private investment. "Enhancing investment flows in order to stimulate new production and employment", Seaga stated, "requires special fiscal measures".

At this moment he mentioned the steps taken by the U.S. government eliminating preferential tax treatment for foreign source income during the sixties and seventies. Seaga suggested that several new tax mechanisms offering preferential treatment to investment in the Caribbean Basin should be considered, including the revival of some of those provisions withdrawn between 1962 and 1976. He pleaded in particular for a provision granting a Caribbean Basin Country Corporation preferential tax rates to replace the abandoned Western Hemisphere Corporation

Courageous plea



He looked awfully tired. Yet the small man from violence ridden El Salvador still harboured a dream. "I came to ask you to understand what we are fighting for. I want the people of my country to write the history of my country. Democracy is still the best. A dream? For me it is a faith, a belief".

Discarding his prepared speech, Jose Napoleon Duarte, President of El Salvador, spoke right from his heart. And his address deeply impressed the six hundred participants to the Miami Conference gathered there last December to discuss problems and possibilities for the development of the Caribbean and Central America's. Duarte recalled what he found upon his return from eight years of exile: "a different country in which no laws were respected, no civil obedience existed anymore, in which people were ready to kill each other". And still when he was called back in 1979 there was hope in the air. On October 15th of that year an informal grouping of young and middle-grade army officers had overthrown General Romero and published a manifesto denouncing abuses of power by government officials, proclaiming a commitment to fundamental social reform, and calling for a

transition to elections and a democratic political system. Public response was immediate and positive. Archbishop Romero, in his October 21st homily, called upon all Salvadorians to give the new government a chance and warned against further violence.

Soon afterwards Duarte was entrusted with the presidency. "It was no easy task", Duarte told his audience in Miami. "We had to start with restoring order and the values of life. But the problem was that everyone wanted everything at once. It took years to destroy. Fifty years of violence, fifty years of killing. We had to start to create new hopes, to eliminate abuses, to lay down new rules and the basis of what we called reform. And we had to do it all at once".

Peaceful change, however, suited neither those who believed one more push would destroy the army, nor those opposed to all reforms. The implementation of the

Tax preferences. "Perhaps the most fundamental of any such new proposals, Seaga said, are provisions for Tax-sharing legislation which could have the effect of avoiding the double taxation now inherent in the U.S. code in the tax treatment of foreign income". Mr. Seaga put forward the idea of establishing a small Caribbean Basin Tax Co-operation group to examine proposals for eliminating tax obstacles to private investment flows to the area.

Aid

Leaders of the smaller nations in the area were critical of the Initiative as outlined by Mr. Brock for yet another reason. "I really feel there is a political will to do something" said Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of tiny Dominica, "but I'm afraid that in trying to make a regional plan we will get lost in the whole programme . . . the smaller nations are looking for aid first". Charles and leaders of the other smaller countries argue that they cannot attract investment without the infrastructure to support it. Said Prime Minister George Price

of Belize, Central America's newest and least developed country "Aid for infrastructure should be first, then investment, then trade. Indeed Reagan's heavy accent on the "market place" as the engine and sole impetus for development seems too onesided and certainly does not take into account the situation of the smaller and less developed countries.

A onesidedness which was strongly criticized by Prime-Minister Adams of Barbados when he said: I reject without hesitation any notion that the development of Caribbean economies can be achieved by private sector initiative alone, as well as the notion that official development assistance is seldom, if ever justified." Mr. Adams also pointed out that the American economy itself does benefit in no small measure from American development assistance programmes. According to the latest figures 70% of Aid money finds its way back to the U.S.A. And as Mr. Seaga pointed out "the transfer of resources from the developed to the developing world is not a one way flow, but a stimulation of trade with signifi-

cant reverse flows back to the industrialised world in improved trade flows. In short, aid is not charity; it is business".

Concern

One of the most laudable aspects of the Reagan Initiative is the sincere effort to regard the Caribbean countries as real partners and arrive at a workable approach through co-operation. It may therefore be hoped that Washington will take good notice of the criticisms aired at the Miami Conference. In particular because they were often packaged as positive proposals. Carefully drawn up changes in U.S. tax laws and tariff policies, and adopting a flexibility of strategy taking into account the specific needs of the different countries, are well worth considering.

But the most critical element, it was commented, is time. The region requires urgent attention now. Its economic instability is rapidly approaching the danger zone in which unrest and even violence may erupt. There seems little time left to turn the tide. ■

first phase of a land reform programme, transforming 278 estates into producer cooperatives, met with fierce opposition from the far right. From the ranks of landowners, local bosses, and security force members clandestine bands were formed bent on disrupting all efforts at reform by violent means. Christian Democrats and Catholic activists became prominent targets of a variety of rightist operations. On the left guerrillas stepped up their actions backed by Cuba and other communist countries. Not only were they helped in obtaining arms from Vietnam, Ethiopia, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Eastern Europe but Radio Havana, Prensa Latina, Tass and other Communist media started a propaganda campaign accusing the U.S.A. of building bases in El Salvador, destroying villages, and herding peasants into Vietnam-style strategic hamlets. Although these accusations were

totally unfounded (then as now there were no U.S. combatants, bases, or strategic hamlets in El Salvador) the strife-torn country became a focus of international attention.

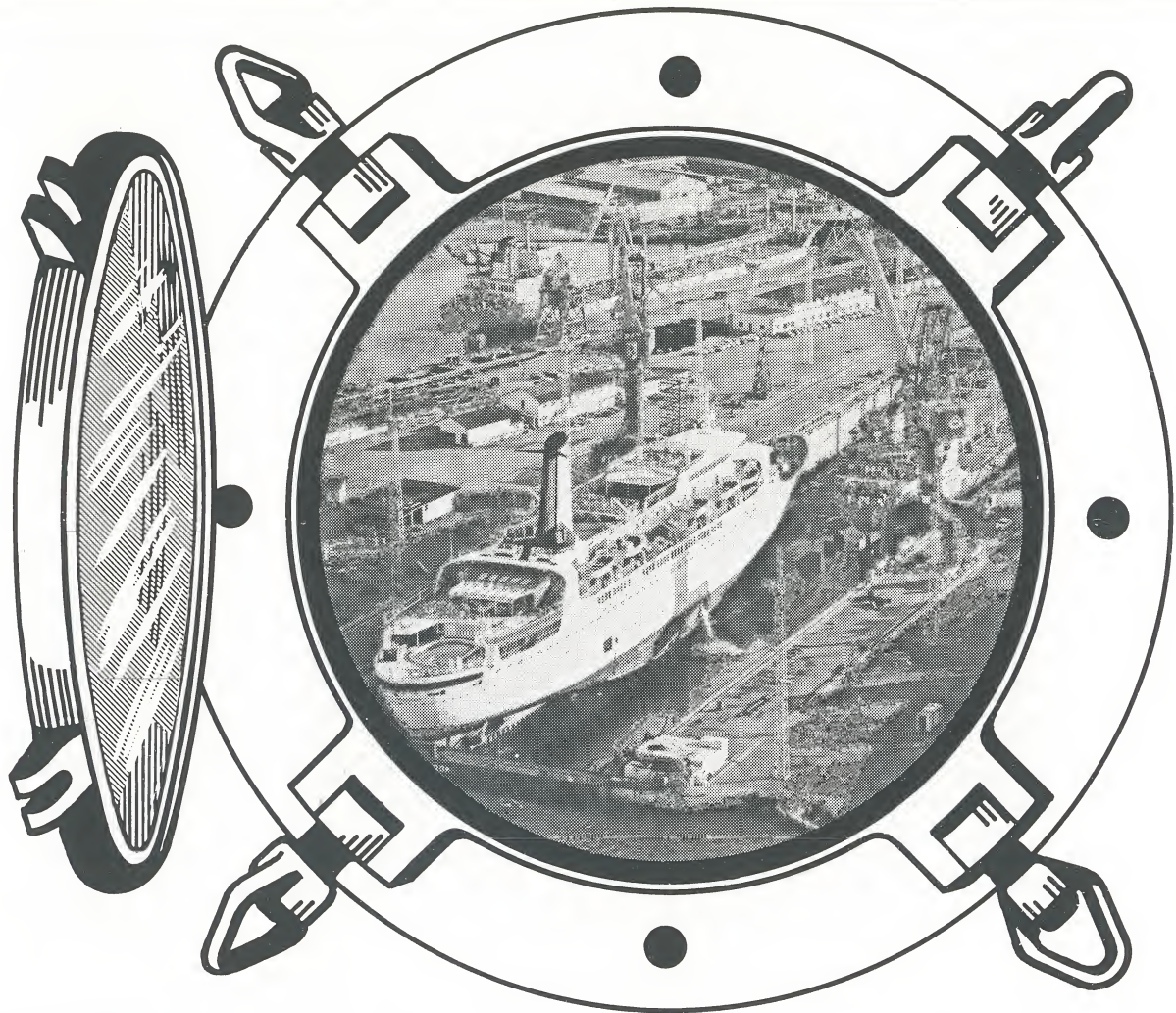
Said Duarte in Miami: "The groups from the right want all the power and so do those from the left. But are they doing any good to the country by killing, by putting fire to the crops, factories etc.?" One thing is very clear: the people do not want that". Continued Duarte: "Power is not ours, it is the property of the people. Let them go to the people and ask what it wants."

According to the Salvadorian President the left got every opportunity to present their case to the people and before the international forum present that night in Miami he called again upon them "to accept the challenge to go to the country and talk to the people".

Duarte assured his audience that preparations were well underway for free elections to be held in March. But he added "we need help. The powers involved are very big. It has become a struggle at world level. If we win (meaning if we can save democracy and continue the work of reform) it will be the end of the idea that revolution, that change can only come by the way of communist totalitarianism."

When Duarte sat down the hall rose for a thunderous applause to honour a courageous leader hemmed in by the extreme left and right, often let down by the cruel performance of his own army and under heavy international pressure. A man with a conscience and a dream.

If his chances look dim, so do those of the people of El Salvador. ■



Take a look into one of the largest and most complete dockyards in the Americas

- Two drydocks up to 150,000 tons d.w.
- 6,000 feet of repair wharves fully equipped with key facilities.
- Cranes up to 140 tons.
- Rewinding of any size generators and motors.
- Complete repair & service of electronic and automated equipment.
- Round the clock service 7 days a week (no slow down because of bad weather... the sun shines practically all year long).
- Daily direct jet flights to the U.S., Latin America and Europe.
- Write for FREE 36 page detailed color booklet.



**CURACAO
DRYDOCK
COMPANY INC.**

P.O. Box 153, Curaçao
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
Cables: SHIPYARD CURACAO
Telex 1107 CDM NA, Tel. 78333

Law and language

by W. Luiten



The Department of Education has recently produced a provisional note on the educational policy in the Netherlands Antilles. Part of this policy note deals with the regulation of the language situation in our country. The paper proposes to recognize papiamentu as official language. There is hardly any difference of opinion on the fact that the lack of official recognition of papiamentu is a disgrace. The necessity of an orthography and of giving direction to the use of language seems evident. But he who starts giving direction with regard to language is influencing more than the language alone; he is giving direction to the entire community and to its cultural orientation as well.

Onesided.

The writers of the note are wholly conscious of the weight of the language problematic. The emancipating function of the recognition of papiamentu, the greater involvement between government and citizen, the emphasis on our own culture and identity, breaking through indolence and disinterestedness, all of these are concepts that are given full attention. And justifiably so, for the opportunities offered by recognition of the popular language are of great significance. But the writers of the paper, who are in favour of extending the use of papiamentu fully, sometimes deal too lightly with the reasons why legislation, administration of justice and government use the Dutch language at decisive moments.

They say nothing about the problems that would arise when Dutch is no longer employed as legal language. This attitude may be comprehensible on the part of supporters of such a policy, but the other side of the picture should also be given.

Link

The note alleges that the reason why Dutch plays a dominant role

in legal circles is that most of the magistrates do not know papiamentu. This theory, however, is somewhat too simplistic. In stating this the writers completely ignore the reasons why all the legal activities (judgements, legislation, contracts, notarial deeds, decrees, legal education) are effected in the Dutch language. Instead of looking into this they try to indicate unwilling magistrates as the scapegoats. Naturally the real reason is not the supposed unwillingness of a few persons, but the circumstance that it is impossible for the Antilles to develop a legal system that is completely their own and that therefore they have to continue being linked to another legal system. Because of historical circumstances this happens to be the Dutch system. As it cannot be denied that law requires a subtle and exact use of language, that language can be nothing else but Dutch. Of course one is not condemned to being bound to the Dutch legal system forever; one could choose for connection with e.g. American or Venezuelan law, but one cannot do without such a link.

Isolation

Just suppose that the legislator decides that the language for legislation and administration of justice has to be papiamentu. What would the consequences be for the legal activities? In my opinion the first consequence would be that cassation of the decisions of the Court of Justice by the High Court (in Holland) would no longer be possible. As a result an important guarantee for legal security will have been lost.

A second consequence will be that the principle of concordance of the Dutch and Antillean legislation will no longer exist. An attempt at concordance of legislation in different languages can hardly be taken seriously.

A third consequence will be that the possibility to attract magistra-

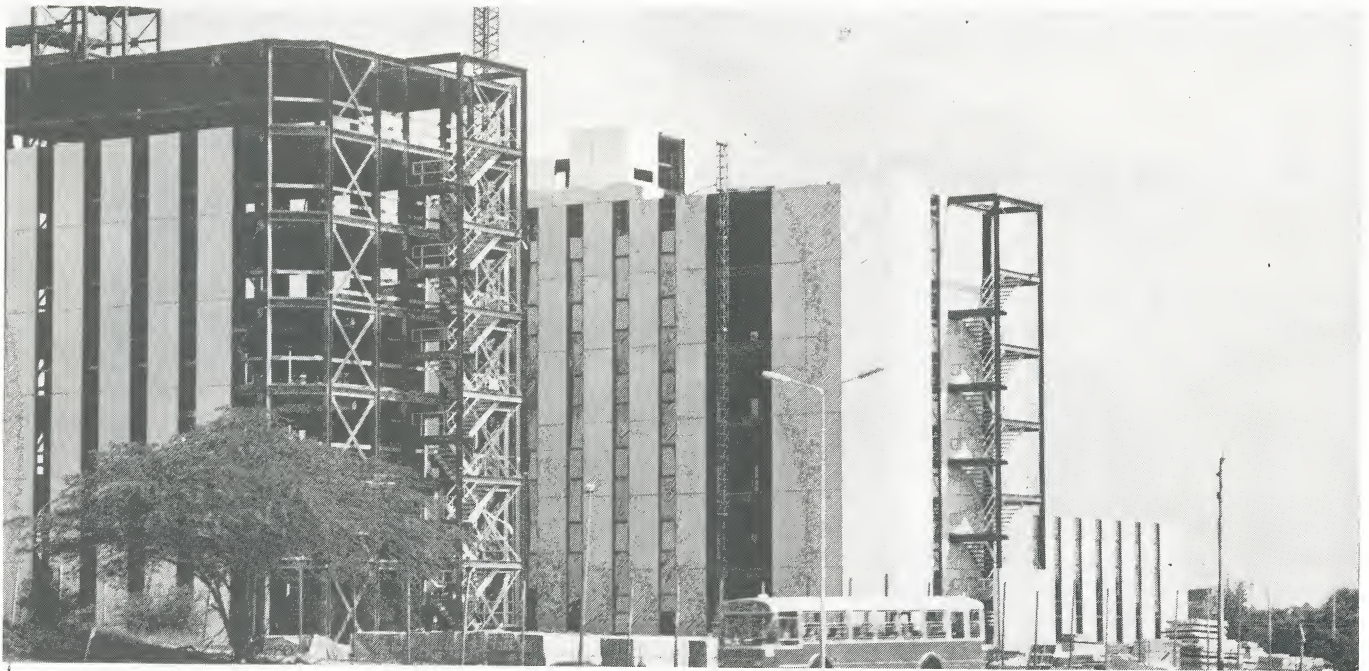
tes, legal advisors and lecturers will disappear. One can put as a condition for a physician or a teacher coming to work in Curaçao that he must use papiamentu in exercising his function (provided he is given some time and opportunity to learn the language), but one cannot require of a jurist that he exercises his function here for a number of years in a foreign language and with an unfamiliar legal system.

A fourth problem will be legal education. It must be absolutely ruled out that we would be able to build up a legal science that is entirely our own. Even in the Netherlands voices are regularly being heard that because of the geographical limitations they are not able to cope there either. And how is legal education to be kept up, if the educational apparatus is missing?

By introducing an extensive use of papiamentu as legal language we will become juridically isolated. This would result in problems, to which there is no solution at least for the time being.

Coice

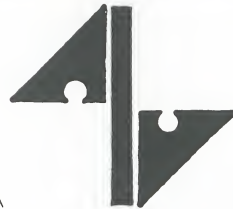
Putting aside the Dutch language as legal language is a decision with far-reaching consequences. It will destabilize our legal and governmental system. In the deepest sense the paper confronts us with the choice of becoming a development country in the fullest sense of the word or of continuing to derive our norms and values from foreign cultures. I, personally, prefer a different approach and that is to proceed from a legal system that is closest to our hearts (this may be a system other than the Dutch one) and adjust it to our own circumstances whenever necessary and possible. Because our situation does imply that we must learn to live independently amidst dependencies. ■



We are specialized in:

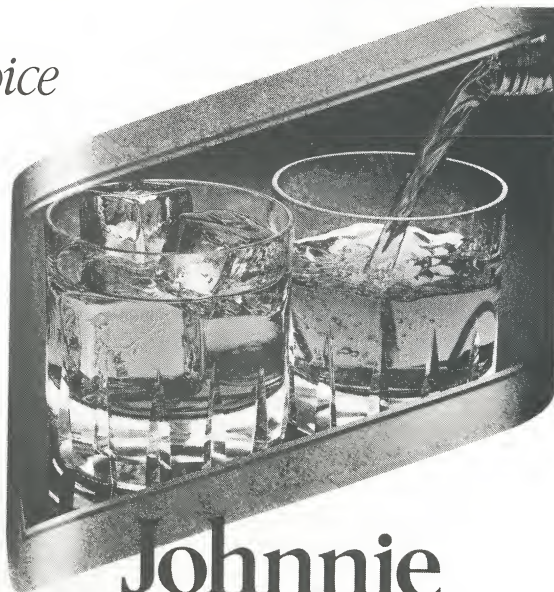
- ▶ UTILITY CONSTRUCTIONS
- ▶ FACTORIES
- ▶ HOUSING PROJECTS

CURACAO · BONAIRE · ST. MAARTEN · ARUBA



albo n.v.
NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN

*The confident choice
 since 1820*



**Johnnie
 Walker**
 The world's No 1 Scotch whisky



MORRIS E. CURIEL & SONS, INC.

Tel. 614900
CURACAO

PEOPLE

President of the Foundation for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons, **Aminta da Costa Gomez**, smiles happily now that a year of hard work is soon to be crowned with the publication of poems and stories acquainting the public with the handicapped. A number of Antillean writers were invited almost a year ago to contribute to the collection. They wrote their stories after having listened to welfare workers, handicapped persons and their relatives. The booklet aims at promoting the recognition of the handicapped as fellow citizens and to help the handicapped themselves live with their deficiency.



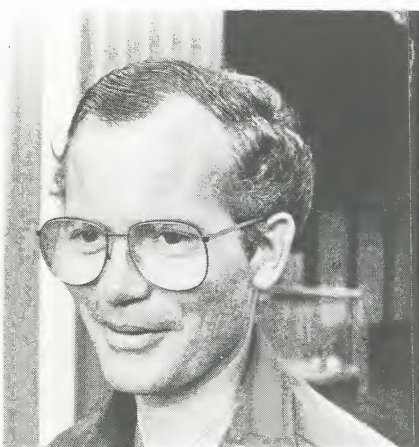
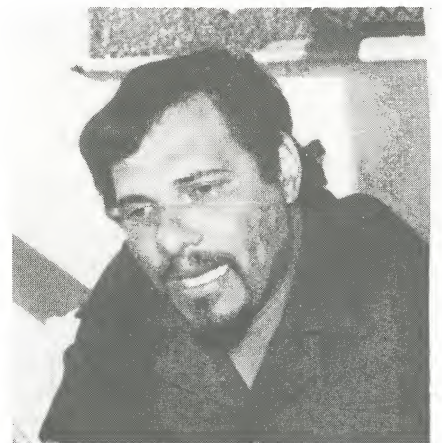
Spending his Christmas on Curaçao was dr. **Jan E. Veldman** (39), who served as head of the island's Public Health Department from 1973-1975. During those years Veldman was instrumental in setting up a number of health centres both for maternity and infant care. He also promoted and organized school medical service. Being specialized both in immunology and in the field of ear, nose and throat — a rare combination — Veldman is presently employed as a staff member at the Academic Hospital in Utrecht. Expectations are that the young doctor, who is internationally renowned for his transplantation techniques, will soon be appointed professor at one of the Dutch universities.



The performance was great, the atmosphere real and evergreens like 'summer time' brought people to near hysteria. Rightly so. For after more than thirty years in the limelight the famous Dutch Jazz group of **Pim Jacobs** (piano) is still as good as ever. The three concerts at Fort Waakzaamheid late January marked the first visit of Pim, wife **Rita Reys**, brother **Ruud** and **Peter Ypma** (drums) to Curaçao. It was a success all around and the

group expects to be back soon. Not that they have much time. Jazz is experiencing a true revival in the Netherlands, Pim told AR. They are already booked for forty concerts in the coming months. And besides jazz Pim has his radio and TV. shows. Ruud owns a record company and Rita loves to be a house wife in between. For relaxation Peter goes in for car racing. Life to them is as exciting as their music is to true lovers of jazz.

Dynamic editor of EXTRA, the country's largest daily, **Mr. Eddy Oleana** (40) recently acquired considerable interest in the C.D.U.M., publishing house of De Beurs en Nieuwsberichten, an evening paper in the Dutch language. Extra Productions N.V. of which Mr. Oleana is the largest sharehol-



der, bought 24 of the 54 shares of C.D.U.M., which in turn is the sole shareholder of the printery De Stad N.V. where both papers mentioned as well as La Prensa are printed.

Mr. Oleana, who started his successful morning paper in 1975, is also involved in the establishment of an exclusive nightclub, which will be opened later this year on Curaçao.



- ★ OPTICS
- ★ CONTACT LENSES
- ★ CAMERA'S

FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE

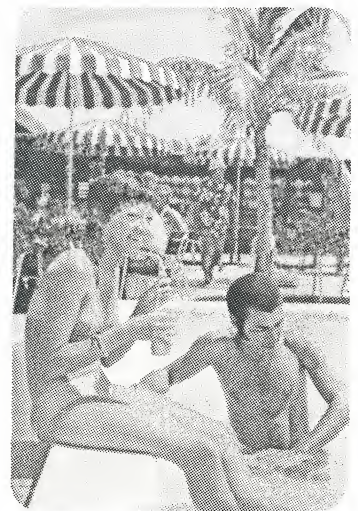
CURACAO: TEL. 611939
ARUBA : TEL. 24720

RODUBER & KAN
OPTICIANS
OPTICS - CONTACTLENSES - CAMERAS

Hotel Arthur Frommer

With a capacity of over 700 beds, yet in a combined hotel-and-villas complex that occupies a far-ranging site, the Hotel Arthur Frommer blends activity and excitement with privacy and space. It offers all the facilities of a major hotel, all the freedom and size of a major resort.

For both the fun-seeking couples and singles in the 100-room main hotel building, and the families in its 94 two-bedroom villas, it is the perfect locale for a memorable Caribbean holiday!



A high quality restaurant, an inexpensive coffee shop, a large swimming pool enjoying a breathtaking vista of the sea, a smaller children's swimming pool and play area, a private beach less than 400 yards from the main hotel building, a pool snack bar and beach snack bar, a separate recreational building with movies and sports equipment, a mini-market for guests desiring to cook in their villas — these are some of the facilities of the Hotel Arthur Frommer.

Who will stop the malafide tour operators?

In endless variations the tempting offers are dangled before the ever-growing crowd of prospective vacationers: more holiday for less money! But beware. Too often the bidder is not a reliable and recognized travel-agent, but a crook eager to relieve his customers of their holiday earnings under false, be it attractive sounding pretenses. And it is not only the tourist who pays a heavy price for believing the smooth talk of the 'clever' guys who claim they can beat the market. Also airlines and hotel operators have often incurred heavy losses in the process. The big question is: who will stop these pirates? Believe it or not, nobody will.

Illustrative

Ad Latjes was a courageous Dutchman. He challenged every travel-agent in Holland by selling airline-tickets for less than the officially published rates.

People who bought his tickets from Amsterdam to far away destinations like Sidney or Buenos Aires did not learn with what airline and over what route they would fly until one week before their departure, when they received their travel-documents.

It often happened that customers — who had to pay an unrefundable amount in advance — were faced with the obligation to pay an additional sum due to "unexpected increases in fares". But people continued to buy tickets from Ad Latjes, often omitting to inquire at a recognized travel-agency what they charged for the same or an even more convenient transportation to the chosen destination. Just because the advertisement said: nobody can beat Ad Latjes.

The answer to how he could do it, is simple. All airlines (including those from outside Western Europe and newcomers) were eager to sell empty seats. Even the reputable airlines, which have to adhere to the rules and regulations of their own organization I.A.T.A. (International Air Transport Association), seemed willing to sell tickets through the backdoor.

The Dutch travel-agents' trade union began asking itself if it still made any sense to live by the

agreed rules and regulations, code of ethics, and to continue contributing to a fund guaranteeing assistance in case of financial trouble . . .

But Ad Latjes prospered. He invested money in an illegal T.V.station and imagined himself to be clever in real estate business as well.

In November 1981 his empire collapsed and within one week no less than 400 people filed a complaint with the police that they had been swindled. It was estimated that so-

mewhere between 1 to 2 million guilders disappeared. According to the Dutch weekly "Panaroma", Ad Latjes is now living comfortably in California!

local sharks

Ad Latjes's story is not as 'foreign' as some may think. In the Antilles also one finds experienced and trustworthy travel-agencies, which had to prove themselves stable in business and financially viable to acquire official recognition from the airlines. But airlines in the Antilles too, including the national carrier A.L.M., are quite willing to do business with anybody who is promoting travel. An attitude not without its consequences!

Employees of firms which have no dealings with the travel industry, civil servants recognisable by their government-registered cars and other small private entrepreneurs ▶

Does a carefree living "second or permanent" in the Caribbean area appeal to you?

CARESTO can inform you about all the possibilities in our Dutch Antilles.



CARESTO

N.V.

REAL ESTATE AND DEVELOPMENT

ARARATWEG 48

CURACAO,

TEL.: 614744 - 614751

Realtors — Project Development and Coordination — Taxation and Survey

are in the business of organising tours 'on the side'. Their only objective being to secure for themselves free transportation and if possible an additional income out of the tax inspector's reach.

In order to be 'cheap, cheap' as the local expression goes, they have to connect up with tour operators abroad who are 'operating' in the same manner. Large sums of money are transferred to those operators as deposits for future services which, however, are often only partially performed because of 'situations beyond our control'. The possibility that such operators may disappear at any given moment, taking with them the money saved up for the trip of a lifetime, apparently hardly ever comes to mind.

That a fool can fool a lot of people is shown by the case of a local 'pirate' offering a trip to Florida. The programme featured a full day excursion to the filmstudio's of Hollywood! Did not the man know that

Hollywood in Florida is nothing more than a respectable living community, with no connection to MGM, Barbara Streisand or Jack Nicholson?

And what about the immigration officials of Costa Rica who are still waiting for the arrival of an Antillean travel organizer owing a substantial amount of money to a number of hotels in their country?

Beyond control

We are living in a world of free enterprise and neither the Chamber of Commerce nor the Government can apparently do anything to stop the malpractices of the 'pirates'. One may doubt if these entities have even the slightest idea of what is going on.

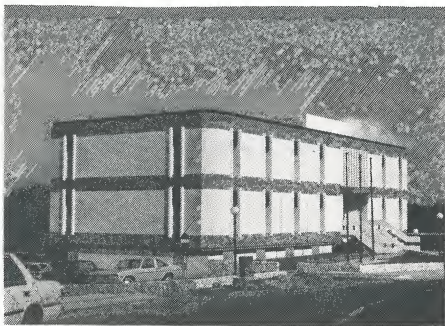
The airlines, however, could put an end to these activities. But there again we come across an example of what free enterprise can lead to: the airlines have not established even a minimum of communica-

tion with each other for the simple reason that they are competitors.

One airline does not want to say no to a private enterprise-group out of fear that another airline will grab the business!

All those airlines rely heavily on the sympathy and support of the established and recognized travel-agents and every now and then their managements look dilligently for ways and means to express their appreciation. But at the same time they play the game 'Ad Latjes style'. And when the moment arrives that hundreds find themselves deceived because the Antillean Ad Latjes has gone with the wind leaving them whistling for their money, no airline is going to take any of the blame, for such matters are 'beyond their control'.

Maybe they are contemplating direct air-service from the Netherlands Antilles to Hollywood, Florida! ■



**OFFICE-BUILDINGS
WAREHOUSES
SHOPS
HOTELS
HOUSES**

*BEFORE
YOU BUILD...
Call us*



Also for: **RECONSTRUCTIONS
RENOVATIONS
SWIMMING-POOLS
TILE-WORK
etc. etc.**

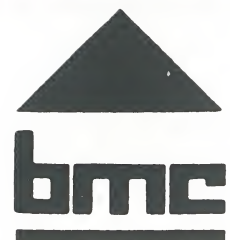


BOUWMAATSCHAPPIJ CURACAO N.V.

CURACAO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD

LANDHUIS POS CABAI, P.O. BOX 201, WILLEMSTAD, CURACAO, NETH. ANTILLES
Telegramaddress: BOUWMIJ - CURACAO

Telephone: 76077 - 76078



Our man in New York

To attract investments Antilles will have to do better

Having served for seven years as the Antilles' trade-commissioner in the U.S.A, Paul G. M. Loewenthal (39) knows what he is talking about. Attracting new industries and investment to the Netherlands Antilles is no easy matter. Competition from all over the world and from within the United States itself is fierce. The Antilles may think themselves suitable contenders, they do not offer interested parties anything special in comparison to many of their competitors. Loewenthal is particularly worried about the time consuming procedures prospective investors have to go through before receiving government approval. Speaking to AR Mr. Loewenthal expresses himself quite frankly. Realizing that Antilleans never like people who rock the boat' — "they rather finish off the messenger of bad news than take his words to heart" — he has nevertheless no qualms stating that by and large the Antilles have failed to create the right kind of incentive. "We have to embark on a new and dynamic approach" he claims.

Competition

Invited by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles to try his hand at interesting American industries to establish themselves on one of the six islands, Paul Loewenthal departed from Curaçao for New York seven years ago. Having studied political science at the famous Belgian University of Leuven, business administration at Gent (also in Belgium), and having worked several years with a private



enterprise on Curaçao, Loewenthal was considered well suited for the job. More so because of his excellent feeling for public relations. Within a short time his office in New York developed into a kind of trade-mission, the only identifiable office of the Antilles in the U.S.A.. Nevertheless Loewenthal does not sound very happy with the result of his work. "In fact", he says, "it did not go well at all". "First of all" Loewenthal explains "it should be realized that we are competing for the American industrialists' favour with 142 other countries. And not only that. Also states and towns in the U.S.A. itself, are hard driving competitors". On that crowded market, according to Mr. Loewen-

thal, the Antilles often have less to offer than other countries. The obvious advantages of a good infrastructure and central location are not benefits only the Antilles have to offer. And our much acclaimed political stability may not seem so solid to Americans, who are confronted with news about possible secession by Aruba and independence negotiations. Also the rapid succession of governments during the past decade does little to imbue trust.

Drawbacks

Warming to his rather somber tale Loewenthal next points out that the incentives the Antilles have to offer are almost exclusively in the nature of tax regulations. Competing countries often present a more attractive package, including subsidies on the construction of factory halls, training programmes for personnel and financial assistance alleviating the cost of purchasing machines. Loewenthal feels that the Antilles should be willing to devote far more than the present five to six million for this purpose.

The governmental structure is another serious drawback in this respect, he claims. Applications to establish an enterprise in the Antilles have to travel through so many offices, which often work at such a slow pace, that the interest shown evaporates long before a decision has finally been taken. Loewenthal fears that the intended decentralisation of government to the respective islands may slow down this process even more. ▶



The dismissal-law making it very difficult to fire employees is another factor making prospective investors hesitant of setting up business in the Antilles.

New approach

Mr. Loewenthal is on the other hand convinced that the U.S.A. constitutes a market with many possibilities. But in order to tap the available resources a new dynamic policy will have to be developed and executed. Asked to enlarge on this concept, mr. Loewenthal puts forward a number of ideas. These include thorough project identification and selection of suitable industries, which should then be approached in a professional way. An effort should be undertaken to compile relevant information about the Antilles in such a way that interested parties become convinced of the advanta-

ges of establishing themselves in the Antilles. Speeding up of the approval procedures is an absolute must. Important too, Loewenthal states, is broadening the offer of financial assistance. This is particularly important because of the prevailing high interest rates in the U.S.A.. He is hopeful that the recently established Development Bank may be a solution in this respect.

The fact that mr. Loewenthal last year agreed to stay on the job for another term of two years, on his government's request, may indicate that his realistic assessment has not been taken lightly and that his suggestions may have been taken to heart. Mr. Loewenthal is convinced that the Antilles have much to offer but in order to become more competitive the Antilles should start doing their homework better. ■

WE ARE SPECIALIZED IN:

- ★ **LADIES- AND CHILDREN CLOTHING**
always the latest fashion
- ★ **MEN'S SPORTSWEAR**
- ★ **ELECTRONIC RADIO & PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT**
- ★ **T.V. AND VIDEO RECORDERS**
and many other items

Our stores in Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten will be pleased to serve you.

Ask for:



Palais Hindu, N.V.

DEPARTMENT STORES IN ARUBA - CURACAO - ST. MAARTEN

by Joan de Windt

Promoting leadership

Celebrating Jaycees re-affirm goals

The Netherlands Antilles Jaycees recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. During those two decades the NAJ, which is part of Jaycees International (500.000 members), became quite renown in the Antillean community. Projects like 'Tene Corsow Limpi' (keep Curaçao clean) and 'No kibra bo florin, spaar energia' (Don't waste your money, save energy) went a long way towards conscientizing the population. They also attracted new members for the NAJ. It should be noted, however, that Jaycees is not a service club like Lions, Rotary or Kiwanis. The main objective of the organization is to train young people for future leadership. NAJ's president, Mrs. V. Leander, puts it like this: "Our first aim is not to help communities but rather to help people to develop themselves to leaders so that they can be of greater service to their community. We do not hand out fish to the hungry; we teach them how to fish."

Upgrading

Jaycees' philosophy is that anyone can be turned into a leader through training and practice. In accordance the organization has developed extensive training programmes for this purpose. Community projects are set up not only for their own sake but also to provide for the practical part of those programmes.

One of Jaycees' goals is to give their members a chance to climb the social ladder by stimulating them to keep improving their performance in whatever they are doing. For this purpose the NAJ offers its members, among other things, courses in Defensive Driving, Effective Writing and Speaking, Rapid Reading, Effective Listening and Leadership in Action. Says Mrs. Leander: "If you want to educate yourself, you'll have to pay in time and money. Some people think that this is an expensive club, but that is not true. Whatever you invest in JC you'll get out of it.

Anyone who joins Jaycees will either make headway in or get better at their work, be it a secretary, a politician, housewife or charwoman".

Executive vice-president, mr. H.



Mrs. Leander

Adoptie, stresses the fact that everything one learns at JC is applicable everywhere. "The art of managing for instance can be put to good use by anyone. A school teacher learns how to choose, when time is short, what to teach, and what topics can wait. A housewife, when shopping, will be able to manage her time much more effectively. Quick decision-making, how to choose and what, is used anytime and anywhere."

Anyone

Membership is open to anyone.

Candidates are invited to JC's meetings for a period a three months during which they participate in committee work" and look us over and vice versa" Mr. Adoptie adds that only people with a 'bad reputation' are refused, but does not state explicitly what he means by that frase. Apparently every chapter (JC group) has its own particular demand as to new members. Female Jaycees Curaçao, for example, only accepts into membership people who have already been active in committee work, so as not to have dropouts when the actual work starts. It has happened occasionally that members were expelled. "The JC name should never be associated with dirty business" says Adoptie and explains: "what members do in their own time is their own affair, but they should never get the Jaycee name involved".

All classes are represented in JC. "From very low to very high. We have employers who take their employees along. In Manilla there is a group in which only streetcleaners can participate, and another one consisting exclusively of cobblers.

Membership ends at forty. The idea behind this rule is that all that JC has to offer should by then be learned and even more important should be put to use in the community. The idea is, according to Mrs. Leander, that ex-Jaycees should continue to pass on to others what they learned. It is interesting to note that many ex-Jaycees join up with one of the service clubs. It is often said, remarks Mrs. Leander, "that the service clubs are eager for a chance to get hold of a retiring Jaycee".

AVIS
We try harder.

*Drive carefree,
LEASE your car(s):*



TOYOTA CROWN SUPER SALOON L.H.D.

- NO CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDED
- EVERY TWO YEARS A BRAND NEW CAR
- RATES INCLUDE MAINTENANCE AND TAX

Avis

FOKKERWEG 6A, CURACAO, N.A.

For more information, please call:

614700



 **Frigidaire**

Legendary quality in:

- REFRIGERATORS
- FREEZERS
- WATER-COOLERS
- STOVES
- WASHING-MACHINES
- AIRCO'S

*A distinctive look and
excellent performance.*

Visit our Showroom at Schottegatweg-West/Kaya Kaiman - Tel. 84896 - Curaçao, N.A.

Winkel Brothers N.V.

Independence

The concept of 'brotherhood' plays an important role in the organization, most in particular on the Netherlands Antilles. Looking back at the annual NJC meeting held in January, Mrs. Leander comments: "Although we are all from different islands and very well aware of the fact that I am from Curaçao and someone else from Statia or Aruba — and so on — there is a very strong tie between us. No political issue or for that matter any other one can ever sever that bond. It is wonderful to move among so many people from dif-

De Taveerne
 STYLISH DINING
 IN A
 HISTORIC ATMOSPHERE
 Lunch 12 noon - 3 p.m.
 Dinner 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
 "Landhuis" Groot Davelaar
 Curaçao - Phone: 35669
 Closed on Sunday

ferent parts and still feel that what we have in common is the awareness that in these difficult times our islands need strong leaders and that Jaycees has in the past provided such leaders, is providing them right now and will continue to do so in the future."

NAJ has not yet taken an official stand on the issue of independence. They are sure to do so at their mid-year conference in May coming. "But whatever the outcome", assures Adoptie, "we consider it our task to help the government inform the people and prepare them for the times to come, which will most certainly be hard in the beginning."

North-South dialogue

Another important item which will be given full attention during 1982/3 is the North-South understanding. Every two years the General Assembly of Jaycees International sets a theme which all Jaycees are to inform themselves upon, discuss and promote during the year. The activities around last year's topic 'Energy- our concern' were greatly appreciated by the public. After the members had prepared themselves through courses and lectures an intensive campaign was held including lectures on T.V., video shows for children, general information activities and a sticker campaign.

This year the focus will be on the differences between the developed nations (North) and the developing countries (South). Information will be given about a wide variety of aspects connected to the theme including the economic situation, the political spectrum and the population growth in the South.

The intention of the North-South dialogue is to make both sides listen to each other, thereby promoting understanding, cooperation and sharing. The Jaycee organization feels that it should make an effort to contribute to this process of bringing the developed and developing countries closer together. Discussions how to go about this are underway. Locally and nationally NAJ plans on organizing meetings with government officials about the government's position on the issue.

Benefit

Mr. Adoptie tells AR that he gained much by joining Jaycees. "I've learned things I could never have learned at my work. I've learned how to address an audience, chair a meeting, say a lot in a short time and how to plan a project. Whenever you go to a congress you learn so much, it never stops. And the friends you make, the people you get to know: it is really a very exciting experience. ■

A brief history

In 1915, in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, Henry Giessenbier started to bring a group of young men together, with the intention of promoting knowledge, fellowship and everything that could turn them into better citizens. Originally the name of the group was "Young Men's Progressive Civic Association." Later on this became Junior Citizens, which was shortened to J.C., which in its turn was spelled Jaycees.

By January 1920 the idea took hold to host a conference for the purpose of establishing a national organization.

In Giessenberg's own words the purpose of this organization had to be:

"To increase and promote cooperation among the young men's business and civic organizations of the country; to increase their efficiency and foster the growth of such organizations. To provide avenues of intelligent participation of the young men in the studies of City, State and National problems; to advance the character and business efficiency of its members along clearly defined constructive channels; it shall propose to secure cooperative action in advancing the common purpose of its members; to secure uniformity of opinion and concentration of action upon questions affecting the civic and commercial interest of the country. This proposed organization shall at all times be non-religious and non-political".

In 1942 the USA Jaycees passed a resolution to sponsor the creation of JC's in Central and South America and also accepted the Canada JC. By 1948 27 countries formed part and in 1972 the name was changed to JC international. (JCI)

Today, 1982, more than 90 countries are members of JCI, and with a total amount of 500,000 members this is the largest young people organization of its kind in the world.

NAJ

In 1961 Arturo Jesurun founded the Junior Chamber of Curaçao (JCC). By 1962 the JCC had seen its membership grow to 70. In view of the success the organization had they decided to promote the Jaycees movement to other islands of the N.A.

Shortly afterwards NAJ was founded. In 1976 the organization accepted female members in their midst. The NAJ now consists of eleven chapters, four on Curaçao, Aruba three and one on each of the remaining islands, with in total 435 members. ■

YOUR INSURANCE BROKER



**assurantiekantoor
j. p. van der lubbe n.v.**

OVER 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

General agent for all leading insurance companies

●
PLUTOSTRAAT 2 - CURACAO - TEL. 34115, 34116, 34117, 34118

**small
craft
yard
antilles n.v.**

*NEW BUILDING AND
REPAIR YARD*



●
NEW BUILDING: Patrol boats
Pilot boats
Fishing boats
Barges
Bouys - 300.000 Tdw.

REPAIRS: Port Services: vessels - 75 mtr.
Engine repair
Sandblasting
Fiberglass
Drydocking: vessels - 20 mtr.
barges - 30 mtr.

P.O. Box 634 - Curaçao, N.A. - Tel: 23320 - Telex: 1169 YARD N.A.

Dutch assistance to migrants from former colonies fails

Brilliant research by Aruba's Eva Latham receives cum laude!

The phenomenon of large groups of migrants in the West European societies is increasingly recognized as being of a problematic nature. Scientific research into this evermore pressing matter is still scarce and in so far as it exists of a preliminary nature. As a result official assistance and welfare work often miss their mark. A first systematic and profound study of the premises underlying official policies and assistance given by government institutions and welfare organizations in the Netherlands to migrants was recently completed by Mrs. Eva Latham of Aruba. The work was hailed as the most important contribution in this field hitherto and earned Mrs. Latham a doctorate cum laude at the State University of Essen (Germany).

Focus

Among the many who have migrated to the industrialized nations of Europe in the past decades those who originate from former colonies are in a category by itself. Mrs. Latham has chosen one of those groups to focus her study upon. Her empirical data are derived from a project initiated by the authorities of Rotterdam (the Netherlands) among migrants from Surinam. It is this group from the former colony in the southern part of the Caribbean and more in particular the way official policies and welfare institutions are trying to solve their problems and meet their needs that are the subjects of her elaborate study. Mrs. Latham uses an interdisciplinary approach analyzing the data on different theoretical and practical levels. In order to shed some light on the complicated interaction between the reactions of political decision makers,

government and bureaucracy to the problems posed by migration and the effect of these reactions on the migrants Mrs. Latham integrates in her study diverse points of view, and several methodical and theoretical approaches to the subject.

Levels

In her analysis, Mrs. Latham introduces three levels and interprets the results of observation and research on one level in relation to their impact on the other levels and vice versa.

What she calls the 'macro-level' concerns the political dealings of Holland with Surinam, the impact of those policies on the migrants, the causes of migration as well as the socio-cultural influence the migrant experiences in his new environment.

The second level, called 'meso-level', embraces the objectives, bureaucratic structure and way of operating of typical Dutch

welfare organizations. On the 'micro-level' she deals with the actual situation of the migrant, his perception of reality and patterns of daily life.

This model appears to be quite adequate for the purpose of scientific analysis. Conflicts caused by the interaction between the three levels are given all the attention necessary. Mrs. Latham demonstrates for example that the way in which the migrants from Surinam experienced the power structures during colonial times is determinant for their perception of the new environment. As a result most of the welfare work becomes ineffective, in particular if the organizations concerned employ fellow-Surinamese. ▶

*We receive regularly
new shipments*

- **CASUAL WEAR**
for the whole family
- **BED LINENS**
- **TOWELS**
- **STRONG SCHOOL CLOTHES**
for boys and girls

Nelly's Store

STA. ROSAWEG 133 - CURACAO

Failure

A most alarming conclusion of Mrs. Latham's research is that the macro-level aspect is not taken into account by policy makers and welfare institutions. As a result all the causes of the existing and perceived problems are thought to lie with the individual. Structural data, patterns of behaviour determined by the colonial society and the process of migration are not considered as determining factors. The assistance given takes its point of departure from crisis-situations like poverty, lack of education and drug addiction. This means that the individual receives only a measure of help. As the real causes for the migrant's inability to adapt himself to his new environment are not being recognized the welfare work fails to achieve anything close to what it aims at.

The internal structures of the

Dutch governmental organizations also hinder effective aid. On four most important points the migrant depends on the service of the government: labour, housing, social security and health care. In this realm two facts work against the interest of the migrant. First of all there is the practice of expressing political decisions in general terms rather than in concrete detail. Adherence to the principle of "an even upbuilding of the population" leads, according to Mrs. Latham, to a further broadening of the already very large power of the social workers to decide as they see fit. Welfare organizations on the other hand have very little possibility to take action and bring about positive changes in the situation of the migrant. They have no jobs to give away and only in very exceptional cases can they provide living accommodation.

Consequently all assistance given

takes the form of financial aid. A procedure which does assure basic income, but must be labelled a crisis solution approach, which never results in changes in political structures.

The above remarks do not in any way do justice to Mrs. Latham's extensive and very well documented study. However, they might wet the appetite of those concerned with the situation of Antillean migrants in Holland. For although there are important differences between the Antilleans and the Surinamese, the inherent failure of the Dutch social assistance programmes remains the same. Mrs. Latham's thesis offers a tool for much needed political action. ■

Migration and Public Service. A research of reactions of the body politic, government and bureaucracy to a new social problem illustrated by a case history (Rotterdam).

CICS

For the Netherlands Antilles as International Centre for Industrial Trade and Banking is the existence of an independent and completely self-supported Data Processing Service Centre of essential importance. CICS (say "cicks"), only two years in the run, yet with an established reputation, acquired through her professional approach, the dedication of well-trained and graduated personnel, and her conception of "high degree of service-rendering", offers existing companies and new investors a complete service package:

ACTIVITIES:

- * Consultancy
- * System Development
- * Data-Processing Services, batch, remote-batch, on-line
- * Facilities Management
- * Education and Training

CAPACITIES:

- * A total of 18 experienced designers and programmers (still growing fast)
- * Hardware: IBM 4331, L02 with 4 Megabytes mainstorage (largest on Curaçao) and 1713 Megabytes on-line storage.

For free booklet with detailed information, write or call:

Curaçao International Computer Services N.V.

Wilhelminalaan 9 Curaçao Tel. 44001 After March '82: Schouwburgweg z/n Tel. 70777

Cola Debrot, the unknown

A plea for re-publication



by Wim Rutgers

With the death of Cola Debrot the Netherlands Antilles within only one year lost their third great figure. At the end of 1980 we were shocked by the fatal accident that occurred to Dr. Chris Engels (Luc Tournier), who could rightly be considered an important bridge between Curaçao and the Netherlands. Six months after that died the great author Pierre Lauffer, who used to write in Papiamentu and who with his volume *Patria* (Fatherland) of 1947 and his later work did pioneering work in raising Papiamentu to the literary level. And now another great pioneer, Cola Debrot, died at an advanced age in the Dutch Laren on December 2, 1981.

Debrot was a great man because of his knowledge, as is witnessed among other things by the two scientific studies he completed; the functions he exercised, of which I will only mention the governorship and not in the last place because of his cosmopolitan broadmindedness. He had travelled a lot and spoke many languages. He was also a many-sided man, doctor of law, physician, civil servant, administrator and artist. It is in this last capacity that I want to dedicate attention to him and here again it is his versatility that stands out in the first place. Debrot was a poet, a prose-writer, a dramatist and an essay writer.

Well-known

The literary history of the Netherlands Antilles would not be as well-known as it is now were it not for his pioneering work. Debrot was the first person who tried to put in a row the facts of the course of development of Antillean literature.

He did so in a number of lectures, which were compiled into "Literatuur in de Nederlandse Antillen" (Literature in the Netherlands Antilles), a comprehensive article, which was published in "his" magazine *de Antilliaanse Cahiers* (the Antillean Copy-books) and later

on appeared separately in an English translation.

It was he who took it upon himself to write the title "literature" in the *Encyclopedie van de Nederlandse Antillen* (Encyclopedia of the Netherlands Antilles); he wrote the chapter "Verworvenheden en leemten van de Antilliaanse literatuur" (Achievements and lacunae of Antillean literature). In doing this he became a pioneer in the field of our literary history. The person who writes about the literature of the Netherlands Antilles cannot possibly go around Debrot, is an absolutely correct statement.

Also outside the Antilles, to wit in the Netherlands, Debrot is the most well-known Antillean author, who is assured of a place in every literary survey as debutant in the magazine *Forum* and co-creator of *Criterium*.

Un-known

But in spite of all this what I want to write about in this article is "the unknown Cola Debrot". The title already used by Frank Martinus Arion more than ten years ago in his magazine *Ruku*, when he dedicated one of the numbers almost entirely to this author, who was born in Bonaire in 1902. The title had not been chosen idly and even now could be used to describe many of Debrot's works. It is with

him as with so many others, who in spite of quite an extensive body of work, are known mostly as the author of one book, whereas the rest of their work runs the risk of being forgotten. So Cola Debrot is the author of the widely read and praised *Mijn Zuster de negerin* (My sister the negro) 1934/1935), *Bewolkt bestaan* (Cloudy existence) (1948), which was admired or maligned in a limited circle, *Bid voor Camille Willocq* (Pray for Camille Willocq) (1946) and the poem *Tussen de grijze lijnen* (Between the grey lines) (1976), which has hardly been read as is mostly the case with poetry.

And yet I would not dare use the predicate unknown for this work, nor for the essayistic *Dagboekbladen uit Genève* (pages from a diary in Geneva) (1967), because they are not more unknown than many of the works of other authors. Who is acquainted with Tip Marugg's *In de straten van Tepalka* (In the streets of Tepalka) and the poetry volumes of Oda Blinder and Alette Beaujon, to name but a few?

Besides these more or less known works, however, Cola Debrot has written works that may well be considered totally unknown, because for decades they have been inaccessible.

De Mapen (The Mapes)

In general 'Mijn zuster de negerin' which was originally published in the magazine *Forum*, is considered as Debrot's debut and one forgets that in the same magazine a year before had appeared from Debrot's hand a novelette of about the same length "De Mapen", of which at the time the influential critic ▶

Menno Ter Braak had a very favourable opinion: "Not counting some four extremely dull jokes I think it is a good satire on the Soviets with a humour that is very original". The setting of the story, which was published in 1933, is Russia in 1947, where the revolutionaries are ridding themselves of revisionist elements, among whom the scientific experimentator Jean Jacques de Brie Crozme, who wants to bridge the social contrasts with the "mapes" (a cross-breeding between men and apes). In Kristof, volume IV, no. 2, there is an analysis of the novelette, which because of its strongly ironic effect and subject — a futuristic story is hard to find in Antillean literature! — is certainly worthwhile reprinting in order to get better acquainted with Debrot's early work.

Criterion

In 1940 Debrot, together with Ed Hoornik and Han Hoekstra, created a new literary magazine called *Criterion*, which went on being published up to the moment when the German Kulturkammer made this impossible in 1942. It is generally known that in this magazine Cola Debrot defended romantic

rationalism, a school of thought named thus by him, and with which he argued against the strongly intellectualistic trend in *Forum*. Debrot advocated a new "criterium", which he finds in the living harmony between feeling and intellect, a realization of the contrasts in art, because they "are the mirrors of the tragic inconsistencies in man".

Allow me to quote some fragments: "The rationalist in completely acceptable form only contends that romanticism (. . .) has its roots in the bottom level of social life and in individual psychology (the personality); he does not say anything else than that there is a relation between the two areas. In keeping this relation clear we have the only means to protect romanticism from the flood of phrases and mad mythologies."

A little further on he adds: "In our magazine you can find all the half-hues of the contrast between romanticism and rationalism. We will only make a stand, even if expertise does inspire a certain respect, when we are grinned at by petrification". And finally; "We have only one demand: never pin yourself down."

The opening article that he wrote on this subject in *Criterion* and from which the above quotations were taken, as well as its sequel, were never published otherwise than in this magazine and consequently are inaccessible.

Ars et Vita

The same is true of the polemic volume on the same problem that he published together with the well-known Dutch literary historian Gerard Knувelder under the title *Ars et Vita* (1946). Therein can be found Debrot's literary credo as put into words and systematically explained after the Second World War in his creative prose. Of the two articles that he printed in *Ars et Vita* the second one especially is of interest, because it is the most explicit: "Open kaart" (Open card). In that article Debrot places the "cosmic" artist's temperament opposite the "escatological" one, in which the first one has a defined conception of the world, which is

still being formed in the second one and is in a state of constant development. The latter he considers applicable to himself: "It is the irreconcilability of the variations (although in an artistic sense they form a unity) that for me has the strongest attraction". In the work of art as such contrasts that are irreconcilable in daily life become a harmonious unity. In this way the work of art is a victory over human shortcomings.

De Automaten (The automats)

Cola Debrot's play *Bokaal aan de lippen* (Beaker to the lips) (1950) has certainly through its translation into Papiamentu by May Henriquez under the title *Kelki na Boka* (1973) become somewhat better known, but the play in three acts *De automaten* (The automats), which was published in *Criterion* in 1940 in three instalments is inaccessible.

In this work the five great social "rocks", the Professor (Science), the Journalist (Press), the Tapdancer (Art), the Invalid (Heavy Labour) and the Anarchist (Revolution) are searching for the Truth. In doing this they conduct themselves in a stereotype manner, to put it briefly, like automats. Officer Verstecke, who has to execute the anarchist, disregards the order and in doing so steps out of the everyday automatism, because he realizes: "All of us here are chilly persons. We repeat what others say, but we ourselves hide behind the stove; we do not try anything ourselves." He arrived at these thoughts when he woke one night beside his wife, who "was jerking her legs, uttering small cries": I broke out in a sweat of anxiety mixed with headache. With horror I realized that we are merely automats. This woman who was jerking her legs and I who at one time or another had shot at anarchists . . ." Naturally the insubordination becomes the officers' ruin, although a lynching party originally planned, in which he was to be killed by bludgeoning, is called off. His downfall is brought about by his Follower, who is always inclined to kill his predecessor. The latter, ▶



PET CARE

ZUIKERTUINTJEWEG

The best equipped shop for your pet

Tel. 36113



THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR PRIVATE PARTIES

Fort Nassau

RESTAURANT

Please, call for reservations,

tel: 613450

together with the Swindler and the hysterical Myra van Kamme finally come off best. The play ends with the cries: "Long live the Follower! Long live Myra! Long live the Swindler! Yes, long live the Swindler! Long live the Automats!" The automatism that for a moment had been disturbed by the officer has fortunately been restored. This is the truth ironically conveyed by mouth of the Professor: "An important truth must go through the Follower, so that everything may remain as of old".

Existentialism

Critics wrote about the existentialistic influence in *Bid voor Camille Willocq* and *Bewolkt bestaan*, but who knows anything about the introduction given by Debrot on *Existentialism* as early as 1947, which was published in *De Stoep (The Porch)* of September 1948 and which together with a few other lectures by others was already published in 1947 by Leopold's Publishing Company under the tit-

le "Het existentialisme; drie voordrachten met discussie" (Existentialism, three lectures with discussions)? Perhaps a story like "De spijker" (The nail), which appeared in the *Antilliaanse Cahiers*, may be known, but who has ever heard of "Marina" (*Criterium*, 1940), the story about the Parisian correspondent Nicolas Broque to whom Marina, his friend, talks about a dream in a letter, which ends as follows: "But do think about this one thing; have you really lost the capacity to attain happiness? To be completely honest: I haven't. Isn't there a winding road between the Dutch birches, which you so often remember with great melancholy? Keep your heart up. Drive the despair out of your thoughts."

Republication

Besides the works mentioned above numerous articles have been published, criticisms, prose fragments and poems in *Criterium*, *De Gids (The Guide)*, *Centaur* and

other magazines. It is true that the greater part of this work has a strongly European character and is little Antillean-oriented and that which them Debrot belongs more to the Dutch than to the Antillean literature. But they are also part of his authorship; he has influenced literary life both in his mother country and in his fatherland.

If one wishes to honour Cola Debrot as an author and really appraise his value, it would be an absolute must to arrive at an integral publication of all his issued writings.

A future Antillean publishing firm that would take it upon itself to carry out this work would merely by this do our country a great service. It would also do the cultural entities great honour if they would provide the necessary funds to make this work possible. ■

(translated from Dutch)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

by Alice van Romondt

CUPIDO

SHOES & CLOTHING

Latest fashion in

- dresses
- sportswear
- blouses
- skirts
- slacks
- lingerie



Fine leather

- shoes
- handbags
- sandalettes

PLEIN ZUIKERTUINTJE - CURACAO
TEL. 36054

Encyclopaedie van Nederlandsch West-Indie (Encyclopedia of the Dutch West-Indies); Amsterdam, Emmering, 1981. 782 pag. f 65,-. Photographic reprinting of the 1914—1917 edition under editorship of H. D. Benjamins and J. F. Snelleman. Published by the Stichting Encyclopaedia Suriname, UNA, Sticusa.

F. M. Hees and V. Pieters.
Zon, zee, zand . . . en weerstand?
(Sun, sea sand . . . and resistance?)
A study of the social implications of tourism development in Curaçao. Doctoral thesis agrarian sociology of the non-western regions and recreation sociology. Landbouwhogeschool Wageningen.

Movies from and about the Netherlands Antilles.
Folder containing a summary of all the movies available in the Netherlands, mentioning the year of issuance, duration and addresses.
Amsterdam, Sticusa, 1981. Free of charge.

Special issue of "Knipselkrant van het Kabinet voor Nederlands — Antilliaanse zaken"; no. 2663, November 10, 1981.
Texts and interviews in connection with

the summit conference between the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, a delegation from Aruba and delegations from the other islands.
The Hague, 26, 17, 28 October 1981.

M. Winkel.
Women and changes in St. Maarten.
An investigation into the influence of modernisation on the position of women, to wit in household and family situations and work circumstances. Doctoral thesis cultural anthropology. 1981.

"Konsumido". (Consumer) vol. 1, Oct. 1981.
Information paper published by the Consumentenstichting (Consumers' foundation) in Curaçao in cooperation with the labour Unions C.F.W. and SITEK (formerly V.L.C.)

A. P. J. van Vaarsen.
Organisation plan for a "hoffie" and "cunucu" on the plantation Savonet in Curaçao. Practical training essay Landbouwhogeschool Wageningen, Willemstad STINAPA, 1981.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Antillen Review offers you responsible analyses of political, financial-economical, social and cultural processes in the Netherlands Antilles. Look for yourself and subscribe today!

Please send me Antillen Review for one year (6 issues)

- Payment enclosed.
- Bank transfer ordered.
- Please send issues 1 and 2, free of charge.

Signed:

SURNAME (Please print in capitals)		INITIALS
ADDRESS		
P.O. BOX	CITY	
POST/ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	

Send this coupon today (by airmail) to:
GRAFIMU N.V. - P.O. Box 15, Curaçao, Neth. Antilles

1982 RATES

Netherlands Antilles NAf 33,-
Holland Nf 60,-*
USA, Caribbean and all other destinations US\$ 30,-*

* by airmail

FOR SUBSCRIBERS WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES FOR PAYMENT:

- by cheque, payable to: GRAFIMU N.V., Curaçao N.A.
- bank transfer to account nr. 422850, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Curaçao) in the name of GRAFIMU N.V.
- transfer to Postgiro, account nr. 4393209 in the name of GRAFIMU N.V., Diemen, Holland, Postal code 1110 AC, P.O. Box 126.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SEND IN THE COUPON



A NEW CONCEPT IN
CURAÇAO'S SPORTSWORLD

We offer all kinds of sporting shoes
for professionals and amateurs;
also a large selection of sportswear and accessories

ATHLETES
WORLD

ATHLETES
WORLD

Madurostraat 3A - tel. 611860 - Curaçao

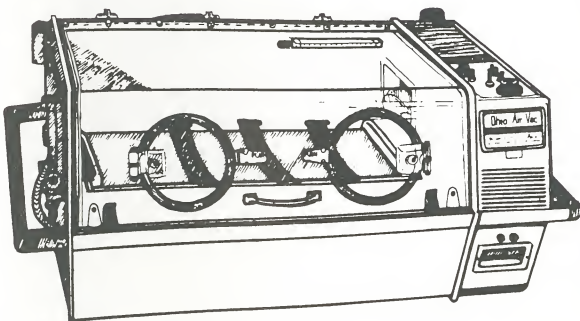
Hoekloos International & Ohio

- MEDICAL GASES AND RELATED PRODUCTS
- ANAESTHESIA APPARATUS AND ACCESSORIES
- DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS
- SUCTION THERAPY EQUIPMENT
- RESPIRATORY THERAPY APPARATUS AND ACCESSORIES
- INFANT CARE PRODUCTS
- RESPIRATORY VENTILATORS
- PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST EQUIPMENT
- PRIMARY PIPELINE EQUIPMENT

For further
information
or a visit
to our
showroom,
apply to:

Address: **HOEKLOOS INTERNATIONAL**

offices: N.V. VERUS,
Fokkerweg 64,
Curaçao N.A.
Tel.: 614260 - 614481
Telex: cuzuf na 1229



"AIR-VAC" TRANSPORT-COUVEUSE

hl hoek loos



Models registered®

Beyond Prestige...

ONLY AVAILABLE AT



SPRITZER + FUHRMANN
YOUR JEWELER IN THE CARIBBEAN
ARUBA · BONAIRE · CURAÇAO · ST. MAARTEN

The most beautiful of beautiful watches designed by PIAGET and made entirely in their own workshops.

The most "sporting" of great sport watches water-resistant, extra-thin, with great purity of line.

The most accurate of accurate watches the only one to have a special memory of the exact time. Instantaneous change of time-zones.

The most precious of all precious watches the only one which could be made in nothing but gold because PIAGET alone make watches in gold only.

Over 130 gr. of gold on your wrist...

1354